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"Karmanye vadhikaraste Ma Phaleshu Kadachana, Ma Karma Phala Hetur Bhur Ma Te Sango Stv Akarmani"
"He lived for his people, He fought for our freedom, He will forever inspire generations."
The legendary freedom fighter MANYAM VEERUDU
ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU
129th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
K. N. Chakrapani
Senior BJP leader
Former Opposition Leader-CMC-Byatarayanapura
Former President - Yuva Janata Dal (S) - Karnataka
Former General Secretary - Janata Dal (S) - Karnataka
President - Chakrapani Foundation (R), Bengaluru
Mob.: 98453 94166
Smt. Kavitha Chakrapani

FIFA WORLD CUP

Portugal prevails over Croatia

SPORT » PAGE 19

THE NEW MANDATE

Inside CBSE's language conundrum

The promise and pitfalls of implementing the NEP's three-language formula

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 13

Meta

CHILD SAFETY

Meta faces questions over child abuse ads

NEWS » PAGE 16

Centre opens power bids to four China-linked firms

The Finance Ministry says the exemption is valid for two years and should not be treated as a precedent; decision follows a request from the Power Ministry and inter-ministerial consultations

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In a sign of a continuing thaw in India's stance on Chinese investments, the government has issued an order allowing four companies with Chinese ownership or links to bid for projects tendered by the Indian government in the power sector. The order, dated June 24, 2026, was issued by the Procurement Policy Division of the Finance Ministry's Expenditure Department and has been reviewed by *The Hindu*.

In January, the Power Ministry had written to the Finance Ministry seeking an exemption from a previous order which mandated that companies located in countries that share a land border with India must register with the Indian government before they can bid for critical public power projects. The approval of this registration was solely at the discretion of the government.

Following this, the Committee of Secretaries and the Registration Committee under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) deliberated on the matter before passing the relaxation order.

Under the latest order, four companies – TBEA Energy India, Nanjing Electric India, New Northeast Electric India, and Taikai Electric (India) – have been granted exemption from the restrictions for a two-year period.

The Procurement Policy Division's order, however, made sure to state that "such exemption for firms may not be considered as a precedent [sic]".

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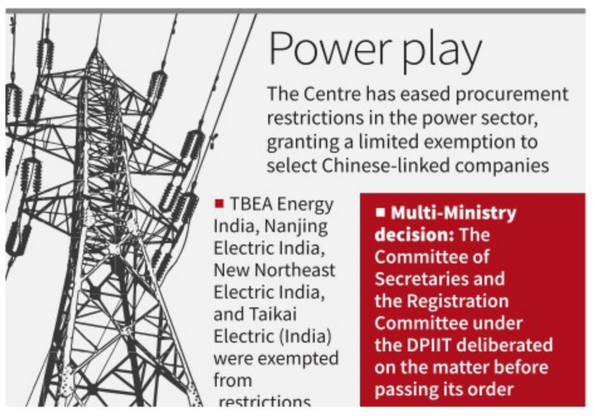
CONGRESS SLAMS MODI » PAGE 14


Power play
The Centre has eased procurement restrictions in the power sector, granting a limited exemption to select Chinese-linked companies
■ TBEA Energy India, Nanjing Electric India, New Northeast Electric India, and Taikai Electric (India) were exempted from restrictions
■ Multi-Ministry decision: The Committee of Secretaries and the Registration Committee under the DPIIT deliberated on the matter before passing its order

India-Japan ties should not target third party: China

BEIJING
China on Friday said that bilateral ties between countries should not target any third party or undermine the interests of any nation, a day after India and Japan unveiled key initiatives during Sanae Takaichi's visit. » PAGE 14

Eight held in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh over 'links' with JeM

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

The accused have been booked under relevant provisions of the UAPA, 1967, and the BNS

Eight persons, including two teenagers, have been arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) for their alleged links with the Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), officials said on Friday.

They were arrested from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in simultaneous operations on Thursday. ATS officials said they were trying to establish a Jaish network in Gujarat and other parts of the country, and planning terror attacks. The arrested accused have been identified as Mudassir Ghaziwala, 22; Ibrahim Ghagha, 30; Zakariya Durani Mohammed Ammar Ghagha, 21; Ahmed Gajiwala, 19; Mohammed Abdul Saadi, 22; Mufti Faujan Dauwa, 40; Bilal Durani Ghagha, 18; and Mohammed Amin Palanpur, 21. "They are residents of Gujarat's Patan, Navsari and Banaskantha districts, and Dewas district in Madhya Pradesh. They are members of the banned terror organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed and were working on its behalf to set up an active terror network in Gujarat," an officer told *The Hindu*.

The accused have been booked under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Officials said over 250 pieces of jihadi literature were recovered from them.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

Hydel storage second-lowest in 10 years

BENGALURU
The State's present hydel storage has dropped to the second-lowest in the last 10 years. The cumulative storage in all the three major hydel reservoirs of the State accounted for a mere 14.9% of the full capacity at 8 a.m. on Friday. » PAGE 10

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 9

Spiritual ascent

First batch of pilgrims cross mountain trails amid rainfall during their religious journey to the Amarnath cave on the Baltal route, northeast of Srinagar, on Friday. IMRAN NISSAR (REPORT ON: PAGE 16)

Tata Power withdraws application seeking licence for parallel power distribution

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After facing opposition in Karnataka from Escoms, power sector employees and consumers, Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) has withdrawn its application for parallel supply of distribution of power on Friday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior official from Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), said, "In today's (Friday) hearing held at the commission, TPCL has withdrawn their application orally and will submit a memo regarding the same before us."

In May, the TPCL had applied for licence with the KERC for parallel distribution of electricity in 19 districts of the State.

In May 2026, TPCL had applied for licence with the KERC for parallel distribution of electricity in 19 districts across the State. Though Tata doesn't have its transmission and distribution network in Karnataka, it had justified its move by stating that it was successfully operating primary electricity distribution business serving millions of consumers in other States, including Odisha, Maharashtra, Delhi and Rajasthan.

However, several unions, including the Federation of Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Union and Associations, Karnataka Electricity Consumers Association, Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors Association (KSLCA) and Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Employees' Unions and Association, had staged protest against the entry of private players in the distribution of electricity. Similarly, in June 2026, all the Escoms had also filed joint "objection petition" with the KERC against TPCL.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

GIS-based digital dashboard to fix coordination issues in GBA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Geographic Information System (GIS)-based integrated digital dashboard, set to be developed for Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area, will integrate information related to roads, road history, underground utilities, streetlights, and ongoing infrastructure works undertaken by various departments. All civic agencies have been directed to upload details of their proposed works and action plans on the platform before execution.

This is hoped to bring better synergy between various civic agencies in the city and result in avoiding frequent disruptions, road digging and prolonged delays, said Greater Bengaluru Development Minister

Krishna Byre Gowda

Krishna Byre Gowda, announcing the initiative on Friday.

The Minister said newly laid roads are often dug up within months because agencies work without adequate information sharing. The integrated GIS platform is expected to minimise such instances by enabling advance planning and coordination among departments before projects begin.

Mr. Byre Gowda directed all participating agencies to jointly plan infrastructure works and synchronise project timelines so that utility works, road construction, and other civic projects are carried out together, reducing repeated excavation and disruption to public life.

In addition, the Minister emphasised that the platform will be made accessible to the public for tracking projects and action plans of projects undertaken in the city.

Mr. Byre Gowda chaired a GBA Executive Committee meeting. The committee for the first time brings together all parastatals chiefs on one platform.

"Although the law mandates Executive Committee meetings once every two months, meetings would be convened more frequently whenever necessary to ensure continuous monitoring and faster decision-making," he said.

Govt. told not to take coercive steps against aggregators under new gig workers law

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a relief to leading technology platform-based aggregators, the High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government not to take any coercive steps against them for not implementing the provisions of the newly-enacted Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025.

However, the court directed the petitioner-aggregators, Swiggy, Zomato, Zepto, and Urban Company, to deposit the amount towards welfare fee demanded by the government with the court's registry within three weeks.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on the petitions filed by the aggregators led by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) while adjourning further hearing to August 14 and directing the government to file its statements within four weeks.

The court directed the petitioner-aggregators to deposit the amount towards welfare fee demanded by the government with the court's registry within three weeks. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The petitioners had contended that the State's 2025 law is repugnant to the Centre's Code on Social Security (CoSS), 2020, which has already taken care of the welfare of the gig workers of the entire country.

Senior advocates Dhyan Chinnappa and C.K. Nandakumar, appearing for the petitioners, contended that the State's law encroaches the field already occupied by the Centre's CoSS.

Duplication

They told the court that the petitioners are not against the welfare measures in favour as the aggregators cannot exist without the gig workers, but the State's legislation duplicates compliances as these welfare measures, introduced through 2025 Act, already exists in the CoSS.

State Advocate-General K. Shahi Kiran Shetty contended that both the laws can co-exist as the State's law is intended towards the gig workers working in Karnataka.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

DMK MLA arrested over remarks on T.N. CM Vijay

The Hindu Bureau
THOOTHUKUDI/CHENNAI

Tiruchendur DMK MLA and former Fisheries Minister Anitha R. Radhakrishnan was arrested at Authoor in Thoothukudi district on Friday for allegedly making remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay at a public meeting held on June 20. The arrest came after the Madras High Court dismissed an anticipatory bail petition filed by Mr. Radhakrishnan.

Mr. Radhakrishnan on Friday evening alleged that while he was in police custody, there were attempts to pressure him to resign as MLA and join the TVK.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Spin cycle: assessing India's portfolio of Test tweakers

With a tricky tour of Sri Lanka in August and a blockbuster home series against Australia early next year, India needs its spinners to deliver if it wants to contend for a spot in the World Test Championship final. Just how healthy and varied are the team's stocks?

AP

MANAV SUTHAR

R.V. MOORTHY

RAVINDRA JADEJA

K. MURALI KUMAR

KULDEEP YADAV

R.V. MOORTHY

WASHINGTON SUNDAR

Vivek Krishnan

Promising debuts of keenly tracked young cricketers at the highest level tend to linger in the memory for long. They act as a tantalising prelude to the career ahead, and invite lofty expectations from an entourage of admirers.

It need not always be a three-figure score or five-wicket haul that instigates this rush of excitement; sometimes a sumptuous cover-drive racing across the turf, an in-swinging yorker detonating the stumps or a big-spinning delivery breaching bat and pad is enough.

A debut to savour

Last month, Manav Suthar's Test debut against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh contained many ingredients worthy of such enthusiasm.

Statistically, the 23-year-old left-arm spinner from Rajasthan became the seventh Indian to take a five-wicket haul in his maiden innings. Of equal essence was the nuanced exhibition of his skillset. It transcended the benign nature of the black-soil pitch, and managed to hold the spectators, though scattered in the 38,000-capacity Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium amid scorching heat, in rapt attention.

Manav Suthar's modus operandi is largely reminiscent of an older vintage of spinners whose style was adorned by generous flight, deadly drift and sharp turn

As soon as the youngster was given the ball at the start of the sixth over in Afghanistan's first innings, he got down to business. With two slips and a short-leg around opener Abdul Malik, Manav started with a dream delivery for his tribe of left-arm spinners: the ball pitched on a good length, drew the batter forward, spun and kicked up, like a serpent taunted, to beat the outside edge.

Having played and missed twice more, Malik, with just three balls left for the tea interval, responded with a daft sweep. He skied the cross-batted stroke to Mohammed Siraj at short fine-leg, and became the first victim of Manav's Test career. The tweaker finished with figures of six for 33 and one for 29 as India clinched victory by an innings and 300 runs.

Though the unvarnished truth is that Afghanistan isn't yet up to Test standard, Manav's illuminating debut was significant for two reasons. One, this was the first time since 2010 that India was playing a home Test without either the now-retired R. Ashwin or the rested Ravindra Jadeja. Two, neither Washington Sundar nor Kuldeep Yadav looked as threatening as the debutant.

From the ease of his graceful action to the revolutions imparted on the ball as it fizzed out of his left hand, Manav's modus operandi was largely reminiscent of an older vintage of spinners whose style was adorned by generous flight, deadly drift and sharp turn. Particularly at a time of perpetual lament about the erosion of the traditional tenets of finger-spin, Manav's arrival appears as refreshing as the first spell of monsoon showers.

Sure, stiffer challenges will follow. But in circumstances where Jadeja was given a break just for the think-tank to take a closer look at the next cab off the rank, Manav, who was picked in the XI ahead of Harsh Dubey, couldn't have done more to impress.

The southpaw's rousing entry bolsters the competition in India's spin department ahead of a two-Test tour of Sri Lanka where the slow bowlers have historically dominated. For their assignment across the Palk Strait in August, Shubman Gill & Co. are expected to travel with four spinners in Jadeja, Washington, Kuldeep and Manav.

What Jadeja offers

As tempting as it may now seem to make a case for Manav over Jadeja, the latter's importance to the Test team remains unaltered in the view of the men who matter. Even if he hasn't procured a bundle of wickets of late, his batting has aged like fine wine. In 2025, the 37-year-old tallied 764 runs in 10 Tests at an average of 63.66 – higher than any previous calendar year. Conversely, he scalped just 25 wickets at 38.2 with his left-arm spin.

Some of this was down to the conditions across five Tests in England. But even in more conducive surroundings at home recently, Jadeja hasn't quite looked like the bowler with 348 Test victims to his name. If his runs, rather than his returns with the ball, continue to drive Jadeja's presence in the team, the bowling unit will be saddled with consequences in the longer run in its efforts to keep picking up 20 wickets.

Having been repeatedly overlooked in England last year, Kuldeep hasn't since had the impact expected of a wicket-taking spinner against South Africa and Afghanistan

But with India touring New Zealand for two Tests in November, it is prudent to repose trust in the veteran all-rounder for now. At scenic venues where it can be difficult to distinguish the playing surface from the lush green outfield, Jadeja's run-making ability at No. 6 or 7, alongside a few overs of left-arm spin, will offer balance and depth. That Australia will subsequently visit India for a high-profile five-Test series points to Jadeja, with all his experience, staying a vital cog for the remainder of this World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

Washington's forte, too, is his all-round repertoire. Ever since his comeback in late 2024, the 26-year-old from Chennai has invariably chipped in with bat or ball. That said, the jury in his case is still out on whether he can conjure up definitive performances as an off-spinner.

In fairness, Washington has had his moments. On his return to the Test fold against New Zealand in Pune, he claimed a match haul of 11 for 115. While that was admittedly on a dust-bowl, his four for 22 in the second innings against England at Lord's last year was an example of his wily use of drift on a track inimical to spin. Neither performance earned plaudits since India lost.

When he complemented Manav with five wickets against Afghanistan, Sunil Gavaskar noticed encouraging signs. "Earlier on in Tests, you saw that Washington was more of a flat bowler. But against Afghanistan, he was prepared to experiment. Give the ball a little tweak. Use the crease quite smartly. So, I think he is beginning to grow as a bowler," Gavaskar said during a media interaction on Monday.

Washington's chance to silence the naysayers is in Sri Lanka. If the reticent all-rounder can rise as a match-winner with the ball as India scrambles to climb the WTC table from its fifth position, there is bound to be greater appreciation of his multifaceted value.

The Kuldeep situation

Going through a bit of a rut across formats at this point is Kuldeep. The left-arm wrist-spinner may not have always had the rub of the green, but the 31-year-old also ought to concede his shortcomings. Having been repeatedly overlooked during the five-Test tour of England last year, he hasn't since had the impact expected of a wicket-taking spinner against South Africa and Afghanistan in the longer version.

Beyond these faces, there are efforts underway to groom a wider pool. In the tune-up to the Test against Afghanistan, leggie Zeeshan Ansari, left-arm wrist-spinner Shivang Kumar and off-spinner Saransh Jain were called up to the India nets.

Pertinent as that is, promising debuts can wait. In the race to reach next year's WTC final, India needs its incumbent spinners to take prominence.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	24	13,450	18
2	Carlos Alcaraz	23	9,460	17
3	Alexander Zverev	29	7,190	20
4	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,390	23
5	Ben Shelton	23	4,160	22
6	Alex de Minaur	27	4,110	24
7	Taylor Fritz	28	3,765	22
8	Novak Djokovic	39	3,760	16
9	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,580	24
10	Flavio Cobolli	24	3,460	26
11	Alexander Bublik	29	2,620	26
12	Casper Ruud	27	2,425	22
13	Andrey Rublev	28	2,420	23
14	Jiri Lehecka	24	2,360	21
15	Lorenzo Musetti	24	2,325	22

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 219 ▲ 66 spots

Manas Dhamne
Rank 386 ▼ 4 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	28	9,090	18
2	Elena Rybakina	27	8,143	22
3	Iga Swiatek	25	6,409	19
4	Jessica Pegula	32	5,881	19
5	Mirra Andreeva	19	5,653	20
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	5,523	15
7	Coco Gauff	22	4,879	18
8	Elina Svitolina	31	4,471	16
9	Karolina Muchova	29	3,878	20
10	Victoria Mboko	19	3,670	22
11	Belinda Bencic	29	3,385	18
12	Linda Noskova	21	3,359	22
13	Marta Kostyuk	24	3,156	17
14	Naomi Osaka	28	2,846	18
15	Diana Shnaider	22	2,458	24

Top Indians ▶

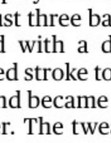
Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 339 ▼ 11 spots

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 395 ▲ 4 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	A.K. Antonelli	Mercedes	171	5
2	G. Russell	Mercedes	131	2
3	L. Hamilton	Ferrari	125	1
4	O. Piastri	McLaren	80	0
5	L. Norris	McLaren	79	0
6	C. Leclerc	Ferrari	79	0
7	M. Verstappen	Red Bull	73	0
8	I. Hadjar	Red Bull	42	0
9	P. Gasly	Alpine	41	0
10	L. Lawson	RB	30	0
11	O. Bearman	Haas	18	0
12	F. Colapinto	Alpine	16	0
13	A. Lindblad	RB	14	0
14	C. Sainz	Williams	6	0
15	A. Albon	Williams	5	0
16	E. Ocon	Haas	3	0
17	G. Bortoleto	Audi	2	0
18	F. Alonso	Aston Martin	1	0
19	N. Hulkenberg	Audi	0	0
20	V. Bottas	Cadillac	0	0
21	S. Perez	Cadillac	0	0
22	L. Stroll	Aston Martin	0	0

A.K. Antonelli



G. Russell

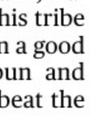
F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Mercedes	302	7
2	Ferrari	204	1
3	McLaren	159	0
4	Red Bull	115	0
5	Alpine	57	0
6	RB	44	0
7	Haas	21	0
8	Williams	11	0
9	Audi	2	0
10	Aston Martin	1	0
11	Cadillac	0	0

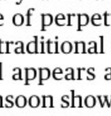
Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	1,05,305	12
2	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	92,565	16
3	Anders Antonsen	91,155	17
4	Jonatan Christie	88,431	17
5	Christo Popov	84,682	20
6	Chou Tien Chen	80,280	27
7	Alex Lanier	74,525	17
8	Li Shi Feng	73,083	16
9	Victor Lai	72,915	20
10	Alwi Farhan	68,409	19
11	Kodai Naraoka	68,020	21
12	Lin Chun-Yi	66,594	18
13	Loh Kean Yew	65,700	18
14	Lakshya Sen	65,213	21
15	Weng Hong Yang	59,341	17

Top Indians ▶



Lakshya Sen
Rank 14



Ayush Shetty
Rank 23

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,17,787	16
2	Wang Zhi Yi	1,06,839	16
3	Akane Yamaguchi	1,00,426	18
4	Chen Yu Fei	87,651	15
5	Han Yue	82,288	14
6	Putri Kusuma Wardani	73,473	18
7	Ratchanok Intanon	72,246	20
8	Pornpawee Chochuwong	67,977	16
9	Tomoka Miyazaki	63,646	22
10	P.V. Sindhu	61,401	14
11	Nozomi Okuhara	59,060	18
12	Chiu Pin-Chian	57,498	24
13	Michelle Li	55,227	20
14	Kim Ga Eun	54,921	16
15	Mia Blichfeldt	53,503	15

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 10

Unnati Hooda
Rank 24

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	853	884
2	Harry Brook	852	898
3	Joe Root	840	932
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Temba Bavuma	775	806
6	Shubman Gill	743	807
7	Rachin Ravindra	740	740
8	Kamindu Mendis	737	784
9	Yashasvi Jaiswal	733	858
10	Dinesh Chandimal	725	755

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	870	908
2	Matt Henry	861	870
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Pat Cummins	832	914
5	Marco Jansen	825	825
6	Scott Boland	820	820
7	Noman Ali	817	853
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	815	840
2	Shubman Gill	791	841
3	Virat Kohli	768	908
4	Rohit Sharma	754	879
5	Ibrahim Zadran	712	756
6	Babar Azam	689	894
7	Shai Hope	683	782
8	Harry Tector	679	730
9	Charith Asalanka	659	705
10	Harry Brook	656	656

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	682	775
2	Abrar Ahmed	675	675
3	Jofra Archer	649	682
4	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
5	Maheesh Theekshana	641	680
6	Adil Rashid	629	671
7	Kuldeep Yadav	614	757
8	Mehidy Hasan	604	722
8	Shaheen Afridi	604	691
10	Mitchell Santner	599	656

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Ishan Kishan	876	876
2	Abhishek Sharma	869	931
3	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
4	Phil Salt	792	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	751	796
6	Tilak Varma	747	845
7	Jos Buttler	716	794
8	Suryakumar Yadav	708	912
9	Mitchell Marsh	706	706
10	Dewald Brevis	702	738

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
3	Varun Chakaravarthy	725	818
4	Adil Rashid	721	747
5	Adam Zampa	700	746
6	Jasprit Bumrah	688	783
7	Nathan Ellis	675	678
8	Corbin Bosch	669	745
9	Wanindu Hasaranga	668	809
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757

BMRCL plans to induct 3 new trains on Green Line by August

The induction is expected to improve service frequency and reduce congestion on one of the network's busiest corridors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Daily commuters on Bengaluru's Namma Metro can expect some respite from overcrowded trains, with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) preparing to introduce three new six-coach trainsets on the Green Line by August 2026.

The induction, which comes more than a year after the arrival of the prototype train in the city, is expected to improve service frequency and reduce congestion on one of the network's busiest corridors.

The three trainsets are part of the new fleet being supplied by China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) - Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd. (TRSL). Among them is the prototype train manufactured by CRRC, which reached Bengaluru in January 2025 after facing significant delays. Although the prototype was initially intended for deployment on the Purple Line, BMRCL has now decided to introduce it on the Green Line instead.

Wheels in motion: Once the new fleet begins operating on the Green Line, the existing trainsets on that corridor will be shifted to the Purple Line, which consistently records the highest passenger footfall in the metro network. FILE PHOTO

Tests almost done

A senior BMRCL official said that the corporation has already received three Distance-To-Go (DTG)-enabled trainsets, including the prototype. According to the official, the testing process has taken longer than expected because trial runs could only be conducted during non-revenue hours on the operational Green Line.

"We have received three DTG-enabled trainsets, including the prototype that arrived in Bengaluru in January 2025. Since the Green Line is already operational, testing activities had to be carried out only after passenger services ended each day. This restricted the available testing window and naturally extended the overall timeline. Despite these operational constraints, the testing programme has been progressing steadily, and we are working towards completing all remaining formalities before inducting the trains into passenger service," the official said.

Before entering commercial operations, the trainsets are required to undergo an extensive validation process, including multiple performance trials, 37 statutory safety clearances and approval for rolling stock.

The official added that several critical milestones have already been achieved, while only a few testings remain to be addressed. "The oscillation trials have been successfully completed, and we have received rolling stock approval from the Railway Board. Signalling integration tests have also been concluded. We will approach the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) for the mandatory safety inspection and final clearance. Subject to regulatory approval, we expect the trains to be inducted into service by August," the official added.

BMRCL has decided to deploy all 23 CRRC-Titagarh trainsets exclusively on the Green Line. While three trainsets have already been delivered, the remaining 20 are being manufactured at Titagarh Rail Systems' production facility in Uttarpara, West Bengal.

Redistribution

The decision is expected to have a wider impact on Bengaluru's metro operations. Once the new fleet begins operating on the Green Line, the existing trainsets on that corridor will be shifted to the Purple Line, which consistently records the highest passenger footfall in the metro network.

This redistribution is expected to improve train availability and ease crowding on both lines, according to officials.

The new trainsets are equipped with DTG technology and feature a design similar to the Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC)-compatible rolling stock which is on the the Yellow Line connecting R.V. Road and Electronics City.

Long delay

The induction follows years of delays in the procurement project. In 2019, BMRCL awarded a ₹1,578-crore contract to CRRC for the supply of 216 metro coaches.

However, the project encountered major setbacks after the company failed to establish a manufacturing facility in India, a mandatory condition under the contract. The delays prompted BMRCL to issue several notices to the company and even consider invoking a ₹372-crore bank guarantee.

The deadlock was eventually resolved after CRRC entered into a partnership with Kolkata-based Titagarh Rail Systems, enabling the remaining coaches to be manufactured in India and allowing the long-delayed project to move forward.

ORR facelift design to be discussed with residents before works commence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Outer Ring Road (ORR) redevelopment plan will be finalised after discussions with local residents, said Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Mr. Gowda visited the ORR stretch in eastern Bengaluru on Thursday night and inspected the section between Lowry Junction and Iblur Junction. The visit was part of discussions on the comprehensive redevelopment of the ORR from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Pura Metro Station at an estimated cost of ₹450 crore.

Mr. Gowda said it is essential to find an appropriate solution to the traffic congestion issue before taking up the road redevelopment works, a concern that the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has been raising since the development plan was unveiled.

Earlier, B-SMILE, the project implementing agency, was ready to begin work before the monsoon and had even floated tenders.

However, the tender was cancelled after the lowest bidder was not awarded the contract. Even then, the BTP had maintained that carrying out the work by imposing traffic restrictions on the stretch, especially when the Blue Line metro is yet to become operational, would paralyse traffic on the interior roads.

A number of apartment complexes, companies and commercial establishments line the ORR; therefore, the plan must be prepared after a study of local conditions, says Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

The Minister's direction has now come as a breather for commuters, who would otherwise have faced traffic disruption

The Minister's direction has now come as a breather for commuters, who would otherwise have faced prolonged traffic disruption.

Mr. Gowda said, "A large number of apartment complexes, companies and commercial establishments line the ORR. Therefore, the plan must be prepared after a comprehensive study of local conditions and adequate public consultation. Accordingly, once the design is ready, consultations will be held with local residents before finalising it."

He added that the inspection provided a clear understanding of the road's overall condition, and the design would now be finalised accordingly.

A B-SMILE source told *The Hindu* that tenders have already been floated for white-topping the stretch and that work would proceed as planned. Only the design of the footpaths and other structures will be discussed with residents before the works commence.

The Minister said that redevelopment work must begin only after obtaining permissions from all the departments concerned. Better coordination has long been a demand of civic groups, which have pointed to its absence as one of the reasons for the city's infrastructure failures.

During the inspection, Mr. Gowda pulled up a chief engineer over rampant road digging and the civic body's lack of knowledge about which department had undertaken the work, highlighting the lack of coordination. He directed officials to ensure that all permissions are properly recorded and that no illegal digging is carried out in the future.

Bescom: Average billing not for all, submitting caste details optional

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As meter readers are busy conducting door-to-door verification of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries, they will not be able to generate electricity bills for July. Hence, average billing will be considered for the month. However, Bescom officials have clarified that average billing will not apply to High Tension (HT) consumers, Low Tension (LT) consumers with a connected load of 40 HP and above, Solar Rooftop (SRTPV) consumers, and temporary electricity connections. These consumers will continue to receive bills based on actual meter readings.

They further clarified that July's average electricity bills will be sent to consumers only through SMS and email. Consumers can continue to use all existing payment modes, including subdivision cash counters, the Bescom website, and third-party payment applications, to pay their July power bills.

Following reports of consumers being asked to provide caste certificates during door-to-door verification, the Energy Department on Friday clarified that providing this information is entirely optional and not mandatory. The department said that entering the beneficiary's category or caste certificate details is purely optional. "If a beneficiary does not wish to share their caste details, field staff have already been instructed to select the 'refused to provide information' option available in the mobile application," the release said.

Bescom staff verifying details of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Helpline numbers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In order to address queries and grievances related to the door-to-door verification of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries, the Energy Department has started a helpline and issued dedicated phone numbers. Consumers can call the helpline between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. for any queries. The helpline numbers are 9480816111, 9480816112, 9480816113 and 9480816114.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Presidency University Takes a Giant Leap, Launches School of AI and Advanced Computing

Presidency University has inaugurated the Presidency School of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Computing (PSAIAC), featuring a new AI Centre of Excellence established in collaboration with NVIDIA to provide students and researchers with access to advanced computing infrastructure. The facility was inaugurated by former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Sivan, chief guest who highlighted the importance of AI and indigenous innovation in driving India's technological growth and encouraged students to become job creators. Dr. Sivan also commended the vision of Dr. Nissar Ahmed for anticipating the changing dynamics of higher education and establishing a dedicated space for artificial learning. The event also marked the launch of BOHRAI (Bharat Open Innovation Hub for Robotics and AI) and a ₹1 crore National Deep-Tech Hackathon to promote innovation and research.

Dr. Tristha Ramamurthy Conferred Nadaprabhu Kempegowda State Award 2026 for Outstanding Contributions to Education

Dr. Tristha Ramamurthy, Founder of Ekya Schools and Provost of CMR University, received the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda State Award in the Education and Social Sector category from the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Foundation during celebrations marking Kempegowda's 517th birth anniversary. The award was presented in the presence of several eminent dignitaries, including Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan as Chief Guest and other dignitaries from public life, government, and religious institutions, including Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji. Accepting the honour, she dedicated the award to the commitment of teachers and educators, emphasizing the importance of research-led, learner-first education and future-ready learning. The recognition highlights her contributions to advancing learner-centric education, innovation, and academic excellence across Ekya Schools and CMR University.

BMSCCM Welcomes New UG Batch 2026-27

BMS College of Commerce and Management (BMSCCM) inaugurated its undergraduate batch for the Academic Year 2026-27 with a grand ceremony focused on holistic development, leadership, and career readiness. Chairman Sri. Aviram Sharma and Principal Dr. Pankaj Choudhary emphasized the institution's legacy and commitment to shaping well-rounded graduates.

PSCS Unveils "Ink to Impact: Tech Chronicle" Celebrating Innovation and Academic Excellence

The Presidency School of Computer Science and Engineering (PSCS - Core), Presidency University, hosted the "Ink to Impact: Tech Chronicle - Magazine Release Ceremony" at the University Seminar Hall to celebrate the achievements of its students and faculty. The latest edition of Tech Chronicle was inagurated and highlighted the importance of innovation, communication, and lifelong learning. The magazine showcases student and faculty achievements, research, publications, technical events, and departmental milestones, reflecting the department's commitment to academic excellence and innovation. The event also recognized the contributions of the editorial team, with Dr. Blessed Prince P, Chief Editor and Head of the CSE Department, describing the magazine as a platform that inspires innovation, collaboration, and lifelong learning.

Building Legacies, Strengthening Bonds - Family Business Workshop at Mysore

The Family Business Workshop in Mysore, organised by the Pratyagra Centre of Excellence for Family Business at MYRA School of Business, brought together family business owners, next-generation leaders and experts to discuss governance, succession planning, financial literacy, digital transformation and professional management. The program was inaugurated by Smt. Trishika Kumari Wadiyar, Chairperson, Pratyagra Foundation. The programme featured interactive sessions, practical insights and a fireside chat with entrepreneur Aroon Raman, concluding with a strong emphasis on innovation, effective leadership and building resilient family businesses for future generations. The workshop received excellent feedback, with participants appreciating its practical insights, contemporary relevance, and actionable frameworks.

ISSyE-26 Brings Together Leading Experts, Highlights the Transformative Role of Systems Engineering in Aerospace, Defence, and Digital Infrastructure

ISSyE-26, held at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, brought together leading experts from academia, industry and research to discuss the growing role of systems engineering in aerospace, defence and digital infrastructure. The two-day symposium featured keynote addresses by Dr. B. N. Suresh and Dr. K. Sivan, alongside technical sessions on human spaceflight, AI-enabled systems engineering, digital twins and sustainable engineering. The event concluded by emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration and stronger partnerships between academia, industry and government to drive innovation and next-generation technological solutions.

Hoax bomb threat to ISRO: Man traced to Uttar Pradesh, held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have arrested a 36-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh in connection with the hoax bomb threat email sent to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Antariksh Bhavan, located on New BEL Road, on Thursday.

The accused in the first case has been identified as Nishanth Tyagi, an unemployed man whom the Bengaluru City Police claimed is "mentally ill". The arrest followed a complaint filed by an administrative officer of the ISRO headquarters after the threat was declared a hoax. The police traced the accused to Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, another bomb threat email was sent to the same establishment on Friday. However, the second email was sent by a different individual.

A senior police officer from the North Division told *The Hindu* that another email was sent on Friday. "We conducted a thorough search, and the threat was declared a hoax," the officer said.

Centre asks States to complete fire safety audits of all hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has directed all States and Union Territories to complete fire safety audits of all public and private healthcare facilities through a special drive and upload the findings on the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) by July 31.

In a letter to States and UTs, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava said fire safety should become an integral part of routine hospital management and patient safety protocols, rather than remain a one-time exercise.

Pointing out that 4,083 secondary-level public and private hospitals had reported completion of fire safety audits on the IHIP portal during May, the Health Secretary in the letter said the actual number of audits conducted could be higher.

The Ministry has now asked States to ensure that all hospitals, including private hospitals and nursing homes, conduct monthly fire safety audits through the IHIP portal.

Lord's was a third full — that was frightening because we weren't used to people

During the course of an extraordinary career in sport, England's Clare Taylor won the cricket World Cup in 1993 and played in the 1995 football World Cup. A pace bowler when she wasn't sweeping up in central defence, she speaks about her experiences in this freewheeling conversation

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

> Ellyse Perry is brilliant because she just flatlines all the way through. There's no show of emotion. Smriti Mandhana is class. You have got players with brute strength, but she is such a touch player

INTERVIEW

Clare Taylor

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Clare Taylor played at the World Cup for England in football and cricket. She had a longer career in cricket, in which she claimed more than 100 international wickets with her pace bowling. The 61-year-old is now a part of the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit. Excerpts from an interview Taylor gave *The Hindu* at Old Trafford, during the T20 Women's World Cup:

Your earliest memories of sport? Are they from football or cricket?

Definitely football. Just where I lived, Huddersfield, we had a grass area. And I have to admit to being a Liverpool fan; we had players like Kevin Keegan, Terry McDermott...

And later on, along came Ian Rush...

Yes, Liverpool has had some great players. Where I lived, it was mainly boys that played. I joined them.

What position did you start at?

Centre-forward. Everyone wants to score goals. And then later on, just kept moving back and ended up as sweeper or centre-half, which I really liked. I think my one skill was reading the game.

Who discovered your talent in football?

Well, I got into the boys' team at school. The Physical Education teacher, Ian Mackay, was the one who encouraged me. And then that was a big thing in the local paper, which had said, 'Future Pele can't play. She is a girl.' Well, the local FA also said, 'You can't play. You are a girl. Because there is no insurance if you get injured.' So my parents took out private insurance just so I could go and then I played for a team in Bradford. And then you just get selected for representative things.

I moved from Bradford, where I played for Bronte Ladies. Then I moved from there to a team called Knowsley, which is near Liverpool. And with the start of the National League, Liverpool men's team took over the running of Knowsley. So I ended up playing for Liverpool, which was like a highlight for me. So once that got, you know, a little bit more professional without being professional, that's when I realised there was probably more opportunities.

How do you look back at that football World Cup in 1995?

It was in Sweden. And we ended up on overnight trains to get between destinations. So it wasn't, you know, first class travel and things like that. And going to the stadium and nobody was in the ground. We played Canada in our first game. And I would say there were about 200 people in the ground. And then you look at the grounds now and, you know, the Lionesses play in front of 40,000 or 50,000.

> We got through to the quarter-finals. And then we did what England do: we lost to Germany

Them winning Euro 2022 was a catalyst, wasn't it?

Absolutely. England is quite a fickle place and the media tend to sway a lot of things.

To go back to your own football World Cup...

We had four group games and then we got through to the quarterfinals. And then we did what England do: we lost to Germany in the quarterfinals.

Gender no bar, then, when it comes to football and Germany?

No, no. We just don't do well, male or female.

You must have more pleasant memories from the cricket World Cup, which was played here in England in 1993.

We had lost to New Zealand in the round-robin phase. They just put a ring field and we played 60 overs and just didn't have the power; we had a lot of technically good players, though. They just stacked the offside; so it was covers: dot ball, dot ball. So we lost to New Zealand. We went back and I said, look, we have got to start, the term I used was hoiking, which means cow shot. Get your bottom hand in.

So, I remember all the girls went into the nets and practised it. Even girls like Janette Brittin, who was class. Carole Hodges... you know, they practised it. And then we played Australia and we had never really beaten Australia. And we absolutely hammered them.

In the final, we played New Zealand again. It was at Lord's. The ground, it was a third full. But for us, that was quite frightening because, you know, you weren't used to people. Then there was a pitch invasion once we had won.

We had a crowd of eight or nine thousand. That was massive [for us]. The media were up at Headingley, as the men were. And they just lost the Ashes up at Headingley. They got bowled out. So the BBC had some cameras down at Lord's. The last half an hour, or 40 minutes, they did it.

So they showed it live on TV?

Yes, and I think it was happening probably for the first time in women's cricket. That made such a big difference because the next day we were in all the newspapers.

You have travelled to India several times for cricket.

The first time we went, I was just blown away with how big it was, how different from city to city, how different from the Western world it was.

I also remember being amazed by watching – it might be at Hyderabad, I think – lots of women on the outfield with sponges and buckets. And literally, it was a human super sopper.

Players you like watching these days?

I love watching Ellyse Perry. Marizanne Kapp, too. Perry is brilliant because she just flatlines all the way through. There's no show of emotion.

Apart from you, Perry is the only double World Cupper – and even scored a stunning goal – besides winning multiple cricket World Cups with Australia. She once told me every girl should try multiple sports before specialising in one.

Absolutely. I totally agree. Football helped my cricket because I was fitter. I had to be fit to play cricket.

And that was not the time when everybody was fit, as is the case today.

No, I remember the first time the England women's team did the beep test, and girls were dropping out at five, which is just like a quick walk. But I was up at 11, 12. And everyone's looking at me going, you know, but I don't think it helped the other girls because they were saying, look, if she can be at this level, then you need to get to this level. It is good to see women's cricket is getting better and the girls can make a living out of it. And it is lovely watching some of them play, like Smriti Mandhana. She is class. You have got players who have brute strength, but she is such a touch player. It's lovely to watch.

Was someone as stylish as her in your time?

Obviously not a left-hander, but Janette Brittin was very elegant.

GAME THEORY

MARK CAVENDISH

EDDY MERCKX

BERNARD HINAULT

The best stage riders of the Tour de France

With the 113th edition of the Tour de France getting underway on Saturday, we list the riders with the most stage wins in the oldest and most prestigious of the three Grand Tours (these wins include half-stages and exclude team time trials). A stage is a single, one-day race that forms a part of the 21-day event; winning one is considered a significant achievement, even if the ultimate aim is to finish the 21 stages with the lowest cumulative time overall. Only three riders — Eddy Merckx (1974), Bernard Hinault (1979) and Wout van Aert (2021) — have won all three speciality stages — mountain, sprint, and individual time trial — in a single Tour

MOST STAGE WINS

Rank	Rider	Country	Stage wins	First win	Last win
1	Mark Cavendish	Great Britain	35	2008	2024
2	Eddy Merckx	Belgium	34	1969	1975
3	Bernard Hinault	France	28	1978	1986
4	Andre Leducq	France	25	1927	1938
5	Andre Darrigade	France	22	1953	1964
6	Tadej Pogacar	Slovenia	21	2020	2025
7	Nicolas Frantz	Luxembourg	20	1924	1929
8	Francois Faber	Luxembourg	19	1908	1914
9	Jean Alavoine	France	17	1909	1923
10	Jacques Anquetil	France	16	1957	1964
10	Rene Le Greves	France	16	1933	1939
10	Charles Pelissier	France	16	1929	1935
13	Freddy Maertens	Belgium	15	1976	1981
14	Marcel Kittel	Germany	14	2013	2017
15	Philippe Thys	Belgium	13	1913	1924
15	Louis Trousselier	France	13	1905	1910

SOURCE: TOUR DE FRANCE

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Within grasp

Sport climbing demands extreme skill, conditioning and concentration.

Climbing competitions are typically staged on purpose-built walls — such as the one in this photograph from the World Climbing Series in Innsbruck, Austria.

Competitions are conducted in three categories: lead, speed and bouldering.

In lead, climbers start at the bottom of a long route and try to scale it within a certain time-period in a single attempt.

The climber's performance is determined by the highest hold reached and whether that hold was 'controlled'. Lead climbers must climb the route 'on sight': they are not allowed to observe others. Bouldering involves climbing short walls without rope. The emphasis is on the number of problems completed; unlike in lead, climbers can make more than one attempt in the stipulated time.

Speed matters in a speed event, which sees competitors climbing a slightly overhanging vertical wall with a top rope.

Sport climbing featured in the Olympics for the first time in Tokyo 2020. The sport's major events are the World Cup and the World Championships.

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Basics Life | United Colors of Benetton | Zimson | Ethos | Cotton World | Aarke Ritu Kumar
Koskii | Avantra | Meena Bazaar | Biba | Aurelia | Soch | Mustard | Go Colors | Allen Solly Women
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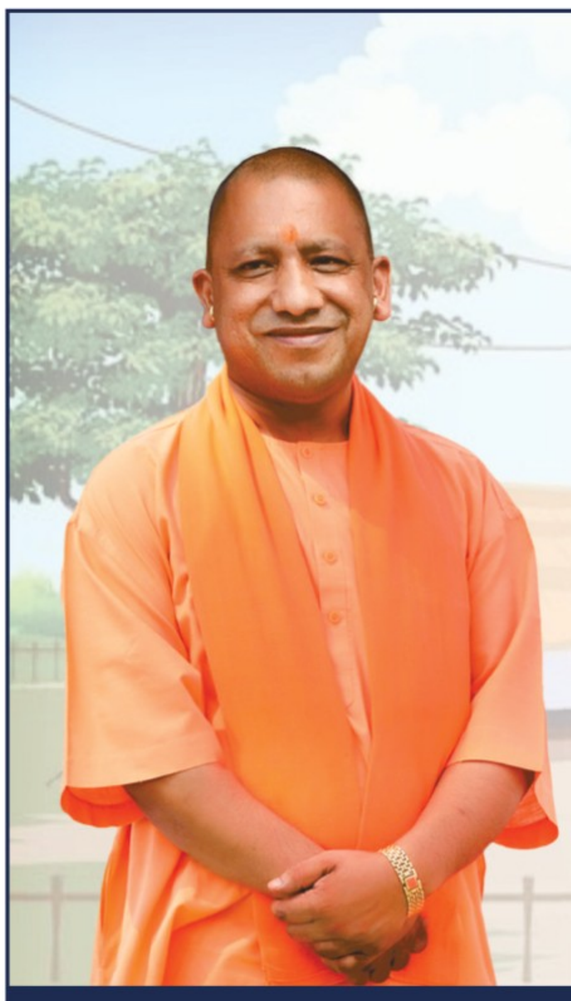

THE JOURNEY TO A POVERTY-FREE UTTAR PRADESH

Under this initiative, economically vulnerable families are being identified in every Gram Panchayat and targeted interventions are being undertaken to fulfil their basic needs.

BUILDING PROSPERITY • EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES • TRANSFORMING LIVES ACROSS UTTAR PRADESH.

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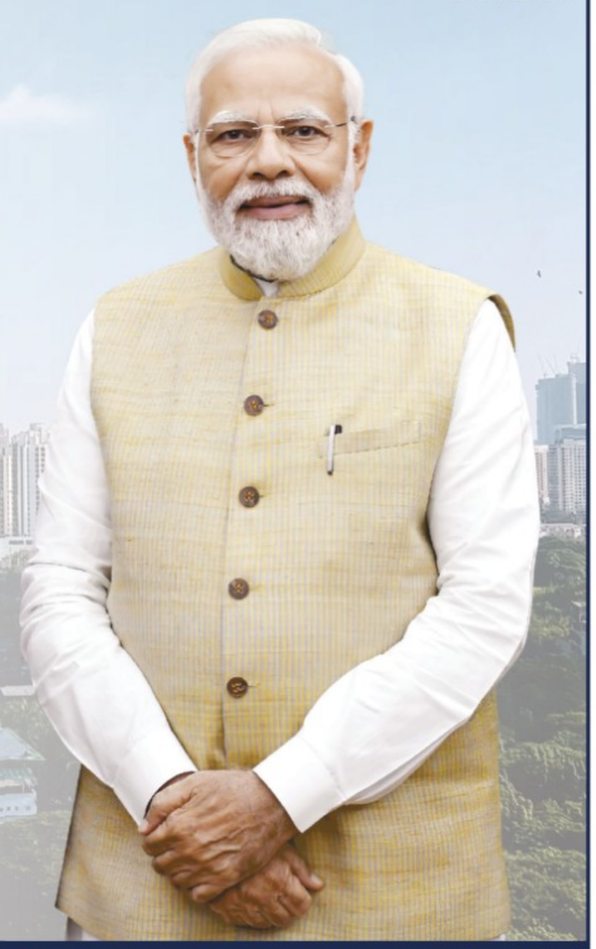


13.57 LAKH Families Identified Across Uttar Pradesh

17 Government Schemes Converged

Under The **Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana,** Financial Assistance Is Being Provided To Orphaned And Seriously Ill Working Children At The Rate Of **₹1,000 Per Month** For Each **Boy** And **₹1,200 Per Month** For Each **Girl.**

Mission Zero Poverty Framework

Identification of poor families in every Gram Panchayat → **Basic Needs Fulfillment** Ensuring access to essential services → **17 Scheme Convergence** Integrated support through multiple government schemes

Skill Development Training and capacity building for better opportunities → **Employment & Livelihoods** Connecting families to income generating activities

Major Convergent Schemes

Ration Card · Housing · School Enrolment · Ayushman Bharat · PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi

Apprenticeship Training Scheme · Jal Jeevan Mission · Sanitation (Toilets) · Other Essential Welfare Services

Rising Above Poverty Line

6 CRORE+

People Lifted Above the Poverty Line Over the Last Nine Years

ENHANCED PENSION SUPPORT

Monthly Pension Support is Being Provided to:

67.50 Lakh Senior Citizens

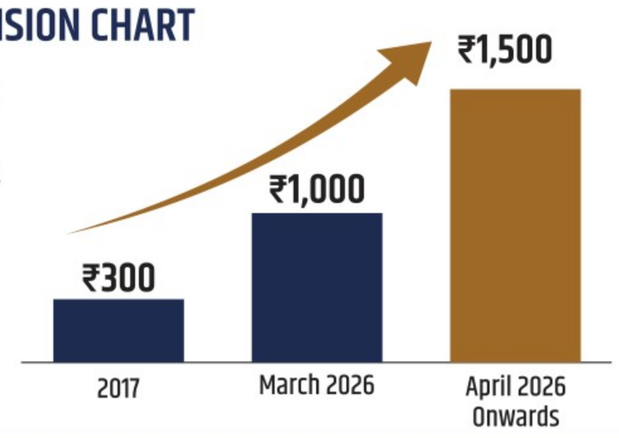
40.37 Lakh Destitute Women

11.57 Lakh Persons with Disabilities

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION CHART

Pension assistance has increased from ₹300 per month in 2017 to ₹1,500 per month from April 2026.

Beneficiaries were receiving an annual pension of ₹12,000 by March 2026.



ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

₹2,500 per month (Earlier) → **₹3,000** per month (Current)

Total Beneficiaries: 12,807

SHRAMEV JAYATE - EMPOWERING WORKERS. SECURING FUTURES.

8.42 Crore+ workers registered on the e-Shram Portal

Uttar Pradesh Ranks First in India Based on the number of workers registered on the e-Shram Portal.

9.52 Crore+ workers provided Jan Dhan Accounts

7 Crore+ unorganised workers provided Ration Cards and Family IDs

7,04,865 workers registered under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana (up to Feb 2026)

16,457 small traders registered under Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Mandhan Yojana

Housing & Facilities Process of providing free housing for sanitation workers is underway.

Construction of dedicated Labour Facilitation Centres (Labour Addas) is underway.

Employment, Skills & Opportunities

13,148 Employment Fairs

15.96 Lakh+ Candidates Selected for Employment in the Private Sector

28,621 Career Counselling Programmes

32 Lakh+ Participants Received Career Guidance

5,978 Construction Workers sent to Israel for Employment Opportunities

59,602 Skilled Workers Registered On Sevamitra Portal

Under Mission Rozgar: Initiatives through Skill Training, Self-Employment Promotion and Apprenticeship Programmes

SECURITY & WELFARE FOR WORKERS & THEIR FAMILIES

Workplace Protection
Death Benefit: ₹5 Lakh
Permanent Disability Benefit: ₹3 Lakh
Partial Disability Benefit: ₹2 Lakh
Funeral Assistance: ₹25,000

Registered Worker Family Security
Accidental Death: ₹5 Lakh
Natural Death: ₹2 Lakh
Disability: ₹2 Lakh to ₹4 Lakh

Kanya Vivah Sahayata Yojana
₹55,000 for each of up to two daughters ₹61,000 for inter-caste marriage

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Support for Unregistered Workers
Accidental Death or Complete Disability: ₹2 Lakh
Partial Disability: ₹1 Lakh

Maternity, Infant & Girl Child Assistance Scheme
6 Lakh+ Beneficiaries

Construction Workers Death & Disability Assistance Scheme
41,000+ Beneficiaries

Construction Workers Housing Assistance Scheme
Housing-related loan assistance through banks and cooperative institutions.

EDUCATION & SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

18 Divisions
Atal Residential Schools Established Across All 18 Divisions Of Uttar Pradesh. Academic Sessions Commenced.

93 Lakh+ Beneficiaries Under Atal Pension Yojana

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FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY.

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Transforming Lives.
Strengthening Families.
Building a Stronger Uttar Pradesh.

A BG-BGE

11,000 SC students fear losing reserved seats in CET counselling

It is attributed to non-submission of caste certificates, and the problem arises from delays in issuing the documents

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

More than 11,000 Scheduled Caste (SC) students fear they may be deprived of reserved seats during CET 2026 counselling due to the non-submission of caste certificates compliant with internal reservation. The problem stems from delays in tehsildar offices across the State in issuing the required certificates.

Responding to complaints from SC students, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has written to the Revenue Department, urging the speedy issuance of caste certificates under internal reservation. As per the current schedule, July 8 is the last date for "option entry" for admission to professional courses. However, the portal is preventing these 11,000 students from doing so as their documents do not include the Revenue Document (RD) number of a caste certificate compliant with internal reservation.

Out of 43,353 SC students, 32,267 students have entered the Revenue Document number of their caste certificates compliant with internal reservation. FILE PHOTO

Confusion

Since the State government had not taken a decision on implementing internal reservation for CET when applications were submitted, SC students entered the RD number from their existing caste certificates in the online application. However, after the government decided to implement internal reservation and allot seats in professional courses accordingly, the KEA directed all students seeking seats under the SC reservation to submit caste certificates under Categories A, B and C of the internal reservation system.

Out of 43,353 SC students, 32,267 students – including 8,776 under Category A, 11,466 under Category B, and 12,025 under Category C – have entered the RD number of their caste certificates compliant with internal reservation. The remaining 11,086 students are yet to submit their certificates.

"Initially, it was not mandatory to submit a caste certificate under internal reservation, so we submitted our old caste certificates. After the government implemented internal reservation, KEA asked us to obtain caste certificates under the internal reservation categories and register the RD number. Even after applying for the certificate nearly a month ago, the tehsildar's office has not issued it. Because of this delay, we are unable to complete option entry," lamented Kavya (name changed), a student from Bengaluru South district.

KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said students who are yet to register their RD numbers under internal reservation have been urged to obtain the certificates and update their details at the earliest through SMS messages and newspaper advertisements.

"A letter has also been written to the Revenue Department Secretary regarding students' complaints over the delay in issuing certificates. We hope all eligible students receive their certificates in time," he said.

'No delay'

A source in the Revenue Department, however, insisted there was no delay. He said that most applications for new caste certificates were disposed of within the Sakala timeframe of 21 days. There are only seven new applications, and 3,702 applications for corrections to update SC grouping in the existing certificates were pending beyond 21 days. Meanwhile, data shows that another 57,163 other applications were pending for a period of less than 21 days, said the source.

Completion of option entry pending for 80,000 students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sources in the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) said that more than 80,000 students have not completed option entry for professional courses this year due to various reasons.

"There have been reports that some private colleges are luring students to opt for management quota seats by offering various incentives. This could be one of the reasons why over 80,000 students have not made their option entry. Since fees for KEA seats are lower than those under the management quota, all students should participate in the option entry process and secure seats in good colleges," a source said.

IISc convocation on July 10

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

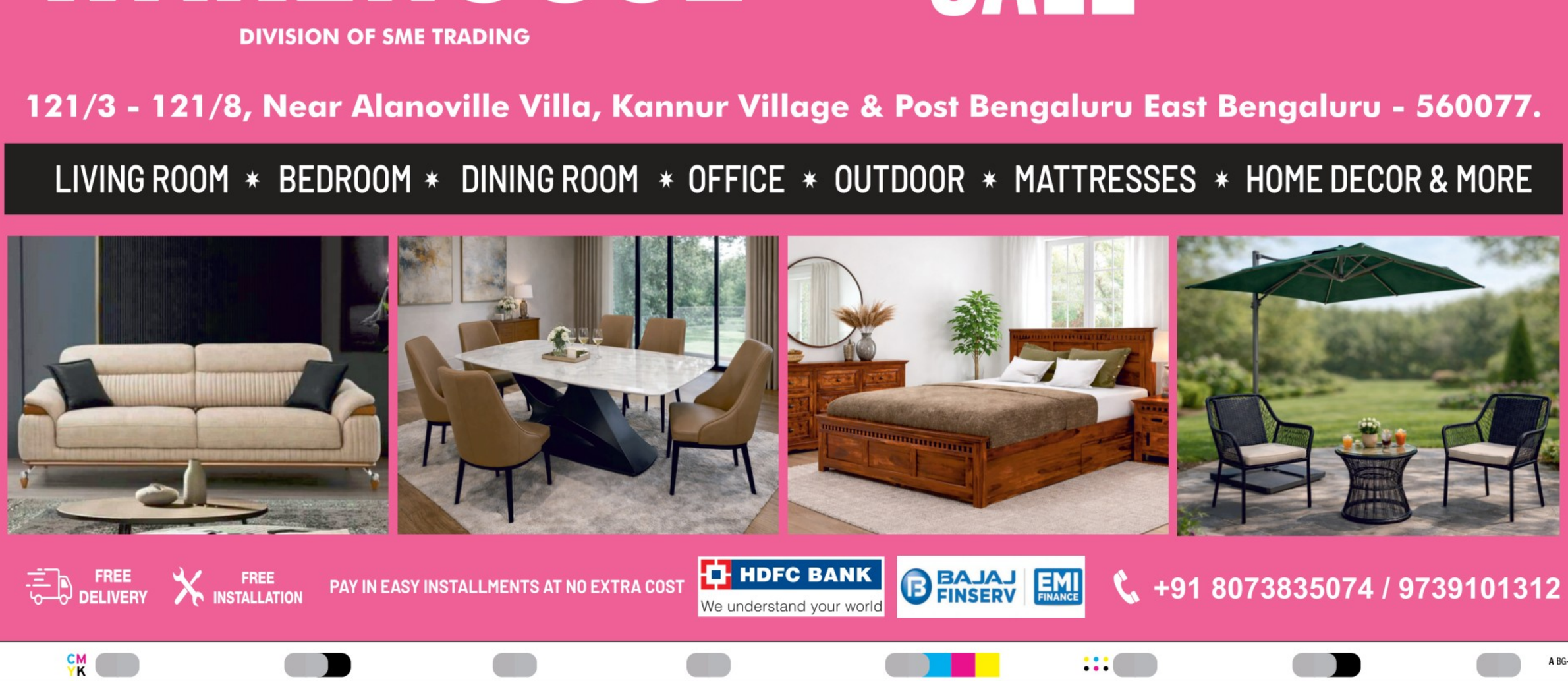
The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) convocation will be held on July 10. As many as 1,452 PhD and masters students, 118 undergraduate students will receive their degrees. The degrees will be conferred upon students who graduated in the academic year 2025-26. Medals will be conferred on 82 students for academic excellence. Chair of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Soumya Swaminathan will be the chief guest, with Senapathy 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan, Chair of IISc's Council, as the Guest of Honour, the IISc said. Over 34,000 students have graduated from the institute since its inception in 1909.

Security guard found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 32-year-old man was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his house in Suryanagar on the southern outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Vijaya Raj, a security guard at a project site in Suryanagar. The police have sent the body for post-mortem. An investigating officer told *The Hindu* the victim had marks on his body that appeared to indicate physical assault, and they are awaiting the post-mortem report.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Oppn. intensifies attack on ongoing SIR process in State

Kumaraswamy releases videos that he claimed showed violations during SIR exercise in Yeshwantpur, alleging officials were influenced by local MLA rather than following ECI procedures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition on Friday intensified its attack on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka, with Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleging "widespread violations" of the Election Commission of India's (ECI) guidelines and demanding immediate intervention by the poll panel.

Addressing separate press conferences here, the JD(S) and BJP leaders alleged that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not following the prescribed door-to-door enumeration process and that the exercise was being influenced by the ruling Congress.

Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that officials were carrying out the SIR exercise under political influence and in violation of the Election Commission's guidelines. Releasing videos that he claimed showed irregularities in the Yeshwantpur Assembly Constituency, Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that officials were conducting the revision under the directions of the local MLA.

The BJP and JD(S) have alleged that some BLOs were distributing enumeration forms in public places instead of carrying out door-to-door verification. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kumaraswamy alleges that officials were carrying out the SIR under political influence

He said he would personally approach the Election Commission of India with evidence of the alleged violations and sought action against the Deputy Commissioners of Bengaluru South and Bengaluru Urban districts.

"The Chief Minister is the principal architect behind the entire SIR malpractice," he alleged.

The Union Minister claimed that officials were not undertaking the mandatory house-to-house verification and instead were revising electoral rolls under political influence. He further alleged that Congress workers and election officials were acting in collusion at Yeshwantpur and claimed that JD(S) workers had "caught an official red-handed".

Mr. Kumaraswamy also referred to a video released by his party on Thursday alleging that BLOs in Ramanagara had distributed enumeration forms from a community hall instead of visiting electors' homes. He claimed that similar irregularities were taking place in Kunigal, Pavagada, Arkalgud and Indi Assembly constituencies.

Mr. Ashok also alleged that BLOs were distributing enumeration forms in public places instead of carrying out door-to-door verification.

Addressing a separate press conference, he alleged that forms were being distributed in front of mosques and Haj Bhavans in areas such as Mahadevapura and Byatarayanapura and accused the Congress government of attempting to facilitate the inclusion of "Bangla" residents in the electoral rolls.

Claiming that around 20 lakh "Bangla" residents were living in Karnataka, including in Bengaluru, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru, Mr. Ashok alleged that the SIR exercise was being misused for political gain.

BLOs told to follow guidelines for door-to-door exercise after plaints

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after allegations of protocol violations during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls surfaced from different parts of the State, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V. Anbu Kumar directed all District Election Officers (DEOs) to ensure that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) strictly adhere to the guidelines laid down by the Election Commission of India (ECI), and undertake house-to-house distribution of enumeration forms.

In a communication addressed to all DEOs on Friday, Deputy Commissioners, and election officials, Mr. Kumar said there were complaints alleging that some BLOs were distributing enumeration forms from their offices instead of visiting residence of voters, as mandated under the SIR guidelines.

ECI's directions

Referring to the ECI's directions and schedule under which the SIR exercise commenced on June 30, the CEO instructed officials to issue necessary directions to all BLOs to carry out door-to-door distribution of enumeration forms, and strictly comply with all guidelines issued by the commission.

He told officials to publicise the availability of Voter Facilitation Centres, where electors who find it difficult to fill up the enumeration forms can seek assistance.

Protocol violation

The directive comes a day after allegations of protocol violations emerged during the third day of the SIR exercise. The Janata Dal (Secular) had alleged that BLOs in Ward No. 23 of the Ramanagara Town Municipal Council distributed enumeration forms from a wedding hall instead of undertaking door-to-door visits.

Separately, a video circulated on social media purportedly showed a Booth Level Agent (BLA) accompanying a BLO during house visits, and distributing political pamphlets, prompting questions over adherence to the Election Commission's protocol.

Responding to the allegations on July 2, Mr. Kumar had told *The Hindu* that complaints regarding violations of the commission's guidelines should be brought to the notice of the jurisdictional DEOs, who have been authorised to inquire into such cases and take appropriate action.

Citizens' group seeks written guidelines on enumeration form

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid confusion over how to fill the enumeration form under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), 'My Vote, My Right' has written to Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar seeking written explanation on several parts of the exercise.

"While awareness was created through multiple mediums, there is no official document clearly explaining how the forms should be filled. This has left both voters and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) confused," the group pointed out. The group said voters are getting different instructions on issues such as linking their names to the 2002 electoral rolls, using relatives' details for voter-mapping, filling the forms online and dealing with spelling mismatches. It argued that unless the Election Commission issues clear written guidelines, many voters could end up making mistakes in the forms.

Another issue relates to voter mapping is that the group said that until July 1, voters were told they could link themselves only with their parents or grandparents. However, recently Karnataka Joint Chief Electoral Officer S. Yogeshwar Rao said that voters could also use the details of 'any paternal or maternal relative'. The group has asked the Election Commission to clearly state which rule should be followed.

The letter also points to problems with the online submission of the forms. It said the details on a voter's EPIC have to exactly match those on the Aadhaar card. It also says voters have to link their mobile number with their voter ID before they can submit the form online, but the Election Commission's website says this has to be done through Form 8. "The step is difficult and needs to be simplified or clarified," the group said.

Confusion over progeny entry in forms

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

People whose names are not part of the 2002 electoral rolls and who have to link themselves as "progeny" are facing confusion while filling the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration form.

Many voters said different Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are giving different instructions on whose name should be written in the "Name" section while filling the form as a progeny. While some BLOs ask voters to write their own name, others ask them to write the name of the parent or relative whose electoral record they are linking themselves with.

When *The Hindu* visited a few areas like Shivajinagar, Banaswadi and Byatarayanapura, the same confusion came up repeatedly.

Voters said the form already has their details prefilled, including their name, but the progeny section again asks for a "Name".

This has left many wondering whether they should write their own name again or the name of the parent or relative they are linking themselves with. The process becomes even more complicated after that. Once voters get past the confusion over whose name should be entered in the first field, they face more perplexity over how to fill the subsequent sections, such as "Relative's Name" and "Relation."

The voters expressed frustration with the way BLOs are conducting the door-to-door visits. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

For example, a person whose name is not in the 2002 electoral roll may have to link themselves to their father. If they write their own name in the "Name" field, they would write "Father" in the relationship column. But if they write their father's name in the "Name" field, as suggested by other BLOs, they no longer know what relationship to write. Should it still be "Father", or should it be "Grandfather" because the father's record is linked to the grandfather.

Voters said this is not explained anywhere in the form or online, and different BLOs are giving different answers.

Some BLOs were seen calling Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) for clarification.

However, the responses were not the same again, leaving voters with no clarity. It is to be noted that if the forms are filled incorrectly, the voters could be treated as "unmapped", further inviting scrutiny, including a notice from the ERO.

More confusion

Another issue that confused many voters was spelling differences in their names. Many told *The Hindu* that the names already pre-filled in the enumeration form did not exactly match the correct spelling of their names. This left them confused about whether they should keep the spelling as it appears in the 2002 electoral rolls, even when it is wrong or flag it instead.

Here too, BLOs gave different instructions. Some told voters to write their names exactly as they appear in the 2002 electoral rolls, even if there are spelling mistakes. Others said the names should be corrected, but said they did not know how changes could be made because the details were already prefilled and printed in the form.

The voters also expressed frustration with the way BLOs were conducting the door-to-door visits.

The SIR booklet says BLOs should visit every household twice – first to hand over the enumeration form and later to collect the filled form.

This is meant to give voters enough time to understand the form and fill in the required details themselves – especially the 2002 details. However, many voters lamented that BLOs were asking them to fill and submit the form during the first visit itself, so they don't have to make repeated visits.

Voters struggle with Kannada-only enumeration forms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Voters filling out enumeration forms as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) have raised concerns that the physical forms are printed only in Kannada. Although the form can be filled in both English and Kannada, the printed version is available only in Kannada.

Many voters said they found it difficult to fill in the form because several terms used in it are technical. Others said that while they understand Kannada, it is not their mother tongue, leaving them unsure about the meaning of several sections. The problem is made worse because many Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are not from Karnataka and are unable to read the Kannada text.

The voters questioned how the BLOs are expected to help or even know whether they have filled in the form correctly or understand each question if the officers can't read or understand Kannada.

The problem is made worse because many BLOs are not from Karnataka. K. MURALI KUMAR

Many younger residents, in particular, said they are more comfortable reading and writing in English than in Kannada, pointing that forms should be available in both the languages.

While the online version of the form is available in English, many said that the BLOs are insisting that voters fill in the physical form instead, especially when people are reporting problems in matching their constituency, and other details as the website is flagging several errors.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUL. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 22:05	SET 09:23
SUNDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 22:42	SET 10:11
MONDAY, JUL. 06	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:50
RISE 23:20	SET 11:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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THE HINDU
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BJP playing politics over footpath clearance, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday accused the BJP of adopting "double standards" on the State government's street vending policy, alleging that the Opposition was protesting against regulations it had earlier supported during an official meeting.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister reminded that during the pre-budget meeting for the 2026-27 budgets of the city's five corporations, held under his chairmanship on March 20, all parties unanimously agreed on introducing a new regulatory framework for street vending.

"The measures approved during the meeting included earmarking designated vending zones for registered street vendors, prohibiting street vending on major roads, removing vending carts left parked on roads overnight, and making identity cards mandatory for all registered vendors," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar noted that the people are watching the BJP's hypocrisy. "Those who nodded in agreement within the four walls of the meeting room are now standing on the streets staging protests for political gain," he said.

"The government is committed to freeing Bengaluru's footpaths for pedestrians while safeguarding the interests of street vendors," Mr. Shivakumar said. The BJP's attempt to exploit this decision for political gain is condemnable, he said.

Geochemical composition of Chandrayaan-3 landing site resembles meteorite found in Antarctica

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), in a new study, have found that the geochemical composition of the Shiv Shakti Statio – the Chandrayaan-3 landing site – closely resembles that of a meteorite discovered in Antarctica.

The meteorite, ALHA 81005, was found in the Allan Hills region during the 1981-82 Antarctic expedition and holds a special place among lunar meteorites, as it was the first to be classified as being of lunar origin.

According to the study, following the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on August 23, 2023, the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) onboard the Pragyan rover measured the elemental composition at Shiv Shakti Statio, located at 69.37°S, 32.32°E in the southern high latitudes on the nearside of the moon.

Picture of the Lunar meteorite ALHA 81005.

ALHA 81005 was found in the Allan Hills region during the 1981-82 Antarctic expedition

A comprehensive geochemical analysis of the APXS data by PRL scientists found that the composition of Shiv Shakti Statio closely resembles that of ALHA 81005.

Average composition

According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the average composition of Shiv Shakti Point is homogeneous, with observations revealing lower aluminium and higher iron and magnesium abundances compared with typical lunar highland regions.

In addition, the olivine-to-pyroxene ratio at Shiv Shakti Statio is higher than that of the moon's typical Feldspathic Highland Terrain (FHT). Scientists compared the Chandrayaan-3 data with 66 lunar meteorites collected on earth and found that ALHA 81005 was the closest geochemical match.

"In particular, both the meteorite and the Chandrayaan-3 landing site occupy a rare compositional space between two major lunar rock groups – ferroan anorthosites (FAN) and Mg-suite rocks – further demonstrating their geochemical similarity. Additionally, both contain nearly similar amounts of aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3) and a combination of iron oxide (FeO) and magnesium oxide (MgO)," ISRO said.

However, ISRO clarified that these findings do not suggest that ALHA 81005 originated from Shiv Shakti Statio. Rather, they indicate that both represent a similar type of magnesium-rich lunar crust and regolith.

Mixture of materials

Further geochemical analysis argued that the soil at the Shiv Shakti Statio is a mixture of materials from different layers of the moon's crust. The surface appears to contain not only material from the upper crust but also fragments of magnesium-rich rocks, likely derived from the moon's deeper layers. Given the proximity of the Shiv Shakti Statio to the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) basin (~350 km), it is possible that materials excavated from deeper layers during the SPA basin-forming event were incorporated into the soils at the Chandrayaan-3 landing site.

"These findings are consistent with earlier APXS studies that supported the Lunar Magma Ocean (LMO) hypothesis and revealed the presence of primitive mantle-related materials at the landing site," ISRO said.

It added that this new study has opened new avenues for understanding the formation of the ancient lunar crust.

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Creche children abuse case: Caregiver arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The case came to light after purported videos showing alleged mistreatment of children at the creche surfaced on social media

The police have arrested a caregiver, identified as Vijayalakshmi, who worked at a creche operating on the Capgemini campus in the eastern part of the city, in connection with allegations of physical abuse and cruelty towards the children of IT employees.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that Vijayalakshmi, who is in her late 40s, was seen in the videos in which children were allegedly being 'scolded in an intimidating manner', and mistreated. "We analysed the available videos, and it was clear that Vijayalakshmi was at fault. We have sought her custody for questioning," the officer said. The police are preparing for further arrests. "There are legal challenges to making further arrests, which are being addressed," he added.

The case came to light after purported videos showing the alleged mistreatment of children at the creche, Little Buds Day Care, surfaced on social media.

A complaint was registered by Tilekesh Kumar at the HAL Police Station, resulting in the filing of an FIR under Section 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of the BNS, and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act.

The complainant alleged that the creche staff subjected children to physical and mental abuse. The complaint further stated that children who cried or created a disturbance were beaten, dragged, forcefully handled, confined inside a washroom, had water poured on them, and were otherwise subjected to physical assault. A special team headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) is probing the case. The team is reviewing all the available footage from the daycare centre to establish the facts.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has announced a review of all daycare centres, including those run by companies in Bengaluru, to check compliance with prescribed norms.

Capgemini's statement

Capgemini on Friday issued a statement saying that its daycare providers are subject to rigorous due diligence and compliance checks.

"We extend our full cooperation to the authorities to clarify the facts and ensure that those responsible are held accountable. We will provide support to the affected families, including access to a helpline, dedicated counselling through our Employee Assistance Programme, and flexible work-from-home options," the statement said.

It stated that the company is reassessing all of its daycare providers across its facilities in India.

Man from A.P. burnt to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old man was found burnt to death near Sarjapur on Thursday evening. Probe suggests it could be a case of murder.

The deceased has been identified as Vamsi Krishna, a native of Tenali near Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.

The police said the incident unfolded around 6 p.m. near Bikkanahalli Main Road.

Krishna and his motorcycle were allegedly set ablaze by unknown persons. A nearby hotel owner noticed a thick cloud of smoke and rushed to the spot, where he found a man on fire. He immediately alerted the police. An investigator told *The Hindu* that by the time the police reached the spot, Krishna had suffered 75% burns and was already dead. Investigators have launched a probe.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
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ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:– **No: EE/KNNL/ BCD-5/DVG/PB-3/4701–Kogaluru Tank/ 2026-27 / 651 Date:29.06.2026**

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 ಭದ್ರಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ, **KW4** ರಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ **ಟರ್ನ್ ಕೀ** ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 400.83ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ **ದಿ: 01.07.2026 ರಿಂದ** ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿ: **10.07.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.07.2026 ರಂದು 4.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ **ದಿ: 06.07.2026** ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.07.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.10** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರೀಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/196/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, Rekha. S W/o Nandish Kumar K.B. And Nandish Kumar K.B S/o Balachandra P R/at No.24/4, 5th Main, 12th Cross, Bapujinagar, Bengaluru - 560 026 do hereby solemnly state that, we have changed our minor daughter's name from **TAPASYA. N** (Old Name) to **SANIDHYA AAYRA N.** (New Name) We further state that we will be using her New Name for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 02.07.2026 sworn to Notary S. Prasanna Kumar.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 22/MYS/2026
Dated: 29.06.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Birur - Talaguppa (RRB-TLGP) Section: Provision of rail barricading along the track at road running parallel to track, cattle crossing and heavy trespassing locations for length of 7.20 kms.	Rs. 43,52,323/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 23.07.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ Mysuru

PUB/252/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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SBI State Bank of India
Regional Business Office - 6,First Floor, Surya Aspire
Devanahallibypass Road, Devanahalli – 562110
Phone: 080-29902563 / 64 , E-mail:rmr6.aobenban@sbi.co.in

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

The Regional Manager, State Bank of India, Regional Business Office,First floor, Surya Aspire, Devanahalli Bypass road, Devanahalli– 562110, invites tenders from owners/Power of Attorney holders for premises on lease rental basis for Commercial / Office use having Carpet area of about 232 Sq. mt.(2500 Sqft +/- 20%)for **SBI MANCHENAHALLI Branch**. The premises location should be on main road within a radius of 1 KM with in **Manchenahalli town, preferably on Ground floor**.

The Premises should have all facilities including adequate power load, water supply, parking space, space for keeping generator, e-lobby and V-SAT, good frontage (free of cost). The entire space should preferably be on one single floor preferably on Ground floor. Premises should be ready for possession / occupation or a plot. The format for submission of the technical bid containing detailed parameters, terms and conditions and price bid can be downloaded from SBI website **https://sbi.bank.in** under SBI in the news/Procurement News from **04.07.2026** to **20.07.2026.**Preference will be given to the premises owned by the Govt. departments public Sector Units / banks. The offers, complete in all respects should be submitted in a sealed cover to State Bank of India, Regional Business Office-6, First floor, Surya Aspire, Devanahalli Bypass road, Devanahalli– 562110 on or before **3.00 PM** on **20.07.2026**.SBI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons. Brokers will not be entertained.

Sd/-
Regional Manager,
State Bank of India,
Regional Business Office – 06,Devanahalli

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 04.07.2026

IDBI BANK **IDBI Bank Limited,** Retail Asset Centre, 326, 1st Floor, Junction of 6th Main-80 ft Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560 038

Order by the Competent Authority

In the matter of classification of persons/entity mentioned below as Fraud, Notice is hereby given to the persons/entity mentioned below that the Order issued by the Bank in terms of RBI Master Directions on Fraud Risk Management in Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks) and All India Financial Institutions dated July 15, 2024 ('Master Directions'), has been returned un-served.

Name	Address	Designation
Smt Annapoorna A	No.5-117-1, 3rd Main, 2nd Cross, Kaverinagar, Kathriguppe, Banashankari, 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560 085.	Borrower
Shri Karthik Vijayaraj	No 56, 2nd Cross, Club Road, TC Palya Main Road, Near Anandapura Auto Stand, Bangalore 560 036.	Borrower
Smt M Poornima	No 56, 2nd Cross, Club Road, TC Palya Main Road, Near Anandapura Auto Stand, Bangalore 560 036.	Borrower
Shri Dorai Raj	Door No 5/4, 63rd Cross, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560 010.	Borrower
Smt Lakshmi	Door No 5/4, 63rd Cross, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560 010.	Borrower
M/s MM Destiny Developers	203, Kalpana Pride Homes, 9th Cross, Kodihalli, Bangalore 560 066.	Builder
Smt Mrudhula Jogi	B-1102, Miray & Rose Apartments, Sidddapura Village, Varthur Hal Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 066	Managing Partner, M/s MM Destiny Developers

The above persons/entity, if they so desire, may like to collect the returned un-delivered Reasoned Order, either in person or by duly authorized person by producing proof of identity, from the undersigned at the address as given above.

Ajay K Peter
Deputy General Manager

Date: 04.07.2026

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION, ZONE-2
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560073

No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/09/2026-27, Date: 03.07.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)
(Short Term Tender) TWO COVER SYSTEM
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)
Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC invites item rate tender from the eligible contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the below work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1)	Developments and Improvements to selected Roads and Drains in Jalahalli Ward No.60, HMT Ward No.61, Brundhavan Nagar Ward No.62, JP Park Ward No.63 and Yeshwanthpura Ward No.64 in Rajarajeshwarinagar Constituency in BNCC limits. **(OTHERS).** Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakh): **1300.00.** EMD (in Rupees) **Rs.15,00,000/-.** (1.00 Lakhs through e-Payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14,00,000/- thorugh BG/FDR, should be submit before opening of Technical Bid.

Calender of Events: 1) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **10-07-2026 at 3:00 p.m.** in the office of the **Chief Engineer, BNCC, Zone-2, Yelahanka Mini Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore-560064**. **2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is on **17-07-2026 upto 4:00 p.m. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **18-07-2026 after 4:00 p.m. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid after Approval of Technical Bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Dasarahalli Division, BNCC.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2026-27/ 819, Dated: 01.07.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1)Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-1,2 & 4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under 3054 SH & MDR Maintenance for the year 2025-26 Under Shorapur Taluka-(1)36283, (2)36284 and 4202 Education for the year 2025-26 Under Shorapur Taluka-General-(1)36695, (2)36698, (3)36699, 2A Reserved-(1)36696 and SC Reserved-(1)36694, (2)36697 Total 08 (Eight) works Tender Called **2)Amount Put to Tender :**Miminimum Rs 17.15 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.200.00 Lakhs **3)Contractor Eligible Details:**Civil Class-IV & Above **4)Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details :**Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal,**5)Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:**03.07.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards)(For KW-4 Works Only) **6)Last Date & Time for Tender queries/Clarification:** 06.07.2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7)Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal:** 08.07.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 10.07.2026 (16.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:**14.07.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards)**10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer,PWD Division:Yadgir.**11)Website Address:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

DIP/YDG/138/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir.

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State urges Centre to raise Totapuri mango PDPS limit

The maximum quantity covered under the scheme currently is limited to 1,30,000 metric tonnes

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Bitter bite: Failure to enhance the approved quantity may lead to dissatisfaction among farmers and trigger protests and law and order issues, the Cooperation Department said in a letter to the Centre.

Following the protest by Totapuri mango farmers in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Kolar district on Thursday, the State Cooperation Department has written to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare seeking an expansion of the approved quantity under the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) for Totapuri mangoes.

The maximum quantity covered under the scheme currently is limited to 1.30 lakh tonnes.

Now, in its letter, the Cooperation Department said, "More than 12,000 farmers have registered under the scheme since June 26, 2026, covering the entire Government of India-approved quantity of 1.30 lakh tonnes and exhausting 100% of the approved quantity within just four days of the commencement of farmer registration. In view of the overwhelming response from farmers and to ensure that all remaining eligible Totapuri mango growers are covered under the scheme, it is requested that the quantity approved under the PDPS be enhanced from 1.30 lakh tonnes to 5.20 lakh tonnes."

The department further said that failure to enhance the approved quantity could lead to widespread dissatisfaction among farmers and trigger protests and law and order issues in major mango-growing districts of the State.

S.R. Kumaraswamy, Deputy Director, Horticulture Department, Kolar district, said, "This year, the Totapuri mango yield has been better than last year. As per the latest figures, around 12,700 farmers have registered under the support price scheme. Since the approved quantity has been exhausted, registrations have been stopped. Last year, nearly 15,000 farmers had registered and received the support price, and procurement touched a maximum of 1.015 lakh metric tonnes."

Neelatur Chinnappa Reddy, Mango Growers' Welfare Association, Kolar district, said, "We are aware that the Cooperation Department Secretary has written a letter to the Department of Agriculture. But we have also met H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, and requested him to write a letter to the Union Agriculture Minister requesting them to expand the quantity under PDPS."

Mr. Reddy said, "This year, due to the seasonal glut and subdued market demand, the prevailing market prices have fallen significantly below recovery levels. This has caused severe financial distress among mango growers. As a result, there has been an overwhelming response from farmers seeking registration under the PDPS. A large number of eligible Totapuri mango growers are still awaiting registration and would be deprived of the benefits of the scheme if the approved quantity is not enhanced."

Union to oppose attempt to scrap Gig Workers Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aggregators have moved the High Court challenging the constitutional validity of the gig workers welfare law.

The Karnataka App-based Workers Union (KAWU) is planning to file an intervention application at the Karnataka High Court to become party to the case filed against the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, and defend the law, the union leadership announced.

Aggregators including Swiggy, Zepto, Zomato, and Urban Company, and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) recently moved the High Court of Karnataka challenging the constitutional validity of the law.

Emphasising that the union will not let companies "strip away basic human dignities like health security, accident cover and fair grievance redressal", Mohammad Inayat Ali, president, KAWU, said, "We will enter the legal battlefield, implead ourselves in this petition, and ensure the voice of the workers ring loud and clear in the High Court."

"The attempt by multi-billion-dollar aggregators to declare this welfare Act 'unconstitutional' is a direct attack on the survival and dignity of millions of workers who form the backbone of the digital economy. While platforms pocket massive profits, the workers face extreme heat, road hazards and zero financial stability," he said.

The welfare fee from aggregators and platforms operating in the State towards the social security of gig workers is due on Sunday. As per the February 2026 notification by the State government, the aggregators are liable to pay the fee for the quarter covering April, May and June, in July.

The union contended that the petitioners' argument claiming that the law is repugnant to the Centre's Code on Social Security (COSS), 2020, is merely a "delay tactic to evade corporate responsibility".

From Page One

Government told not to take coercive steps against aggregators

States like Rajasthan, Bihar, and Telangana too have enacted the legislation similar to the 2025 law of Karnataka, the A-G said, while contending the petitioner-aggregators, who had actively taken part in the pre-legislation and welfare fee determination deliberations, are now challenging the legislation.

'Parallel legislation'

Meanwhile, Additional Solicitor-General of India Arvind Kamath supported claim of the aggregators that State law is a "parallel legislation" as the field of welfare of gig workers is already occupied by the CoSS and there is nothing extra in State's 2025 law.

States like Rajasthan, Bihar, and Telangana too have enacted the legislation similar to the 2025 law of Karnataka, the A-G says

When informed that the welfare fee was intended for social security measures and not direct transfer to the gig workers, the court questioned what the State government planned to do after collection, drawing parallels with labour cess funds, which the court had found being misused.

To this, the A-G said said that welfare fee collected from the aggregators would not be utilised until the disposal of the petition. On the other hand, the petitioners proposed to deposit the prescribed welfare fee amount in a separate account to be maintained by themselves. Though the court initially agreed with petitioner's proposal, it later said that the welfare fee amount be deposited with the court's registry.

'Meagre' amount

Under the State law, aggregators were required to pay 50 paise per ride/delivery for two-wheelers, 75 paise for three-wheelers, and ₹1 for four-wheelers as welfare fees. The court noted that these were "very meagre" amounts, especially considering the charges levied by platforms.

Three held in quarry collapse case that killed 7

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru South district police on Thursday arrested three persons, including the quarry owner, in connection with the boulder collapse at a stone quarry that killed seven persons in Madapattana village in Tavarekere hobli on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The arrested accused have been identified as Panduranga, owner of Sai Ram Quarry; N. Lokesh, the quarry supervisor; and Raju, supervisor at Krishna Stone Crushers. The police said more arrests are likely in the case. The arrests were made after a case was registered under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita dealing with culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Safety measures

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that the arrests were based on a preliminary investigation and inadequate safety measures at the quarry.

He said that a detailed investigation would be carried out based on the findings of the Department of Mines and Geology. "We have sought an interim report from the Department of Mines and Geology to understand what may have caused the incident. The department can investigate the technical aspects and submit a report, based on which we will take further action," the officer said.

Instability

During the preliminary investigation, police found no evidence of lasting at the time of the accident.

They suspect the collapse was caused by the instability of a massive rock that slid from a height of about 40 feet, though the exact cause of the rockslide is yet to be established.

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE IInd ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU RURAL.
G & WC. No. 104/2025
BETWEEN:Sri. Robert Alex @ Balan Kumar, S/o. Late. Chandrasekar, Aged about 45 years, Residing at No.112, "Nagaraj Reddy Building", 2nd Main Road, Sri Sai layout, Naganathapura, Bengaluru - 560 100
Present Address Chandrasekar, Plot No. 25, 1st Floor, Sri Mahalakshmi Nagar, Near Water Tank, Alathur, Melakalkandarkottai, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, 620011 ...Petitioner
SUMMONS TO RESPONDENT
Address of Respondent
Smt. Anitha X Carolyn D/o M.Xavier Aged about 40 years S-1, Phase-III, Lake View Apartment, Kereguddadahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore - 560090. ...Respondent
Whereas, the Petitioner has filed the above suit for seeking custody and guardianship of minor daughter. Therefore, take notice that you are hereby called upon to appear in person or through a pleader before this court on **31/7/26 at 11.00 A.M.** failing which you will be placed ex-parte and the case will be heard on your behalf and decide on, merits.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, on this the 2nd day of July 2026.
By Order of the Court
Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Senior Civil Judge Court
Bengaluru Rural District. Bengaluru
Swapna N. Nair Advocate,
KAR No.1123/23
No.16, 6th Main, Near Grand Majestic Mall Gandhinagar, Bengaluru -560009
Phone No. 9629624323

Government of Karnataka
Department of Collegiate Education
No.1, Unnatha Shikshana Soudha, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore-560 001. Ph:080-22343901,
E-Mail: dce.eoi2026@gmail.com
No: ಕಾಶಿಇ/201/ನಿನ್ಯಾನೇ/2024–25/ನೇವಿ–1 Dated:01.07.2026
Advertisement
The Department of Collegiate and Technical Education proposes to appoint an expert Advocate, having more than five years of experience as a Legal Consultant, on contract basis for a period of 01 year for satisfactorily managing the court cases pertaining to the Department. For application form and details refer to the Department's website: **https://dce.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Director,
Department of Collegiate Education
DIPR/CP/1460/ZEN/2026-27

Government of India,Department of Space
ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)
Mahendragiri P.O., Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu– 627 133, India
E-TENDER NOTICE Dated : 03-07-2026
On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tenders are invited through **e-tendering** for the following work:

Sl. No.	NAME OF THE WORK	Estimated Cost ₹ (in Lakhs)	Period of completion	EMD(₹)
1	NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-22/MW/CMP-05/2026-27			
	External services including Roads and Electrical works for Antenna structure at Spacecraft Control Centre (SCC), Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli (Phase-II)-SBC-3. (Electrical & Civil works)	503.46	04 (Four months)	10,07,000

Dates for Online Request : From 04-07-2026 [10.00 hours] To: 17-07-2026 [23.30 hours]
Due Time & Date of Submission : 28-07-2026 [14.00 hours] For further details visit : www.isro.gov.in/tenders (or) www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.
Note : All future correspondence (Corrigenda) for the above work(s) shall be published only on the websites mentioned above.
GROUP HEAD, CMG, IPRC.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Divya, Daughter of Suresh Sardana and wife of Jagroop Singh, born on 06/01/1987, residing at 1472, 7th Floor, Tower 1, Wing 4, DSR Parkway, Carmelaram, Bangalore – 560035, have changed my name from Divya to Divya Rani and shall henceforth be known as Divya Rani for all purposes.

I, DAYA Vati Dependent Of Kaushal Kumar Shaktiyaan Resident of H. No-11, Nala Pani Road, Ambedkar Nagar, Dist- Dehradun Uttrakhand-248001 have changed my name from Daya Vati To Dayawati Vide Affidavit Dated: 01-07-2026 Before Notary A R Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

I, hitherto known as Hanumesh G Kulkarni S/o Gundurao Kulkarni R/o H.No-11-366/129/2A/120, Mailarlinga Nilaya, Agriculture Layout, Opp. Shiva Mandir, New Raghavendra Colony, Gulbarga, Gb Bahamanipura, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585103 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vishal G Kulkarni.

I, hitherto known as Sanaj B C son of Chandrashekar B M, resident of MCC Post, B.H. Road, Bheemasandra, Tumkur, Tumkur, Karnataka - 572107; have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Akshay Sanaj B C.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **R. SENTHIL KUMAR**, residing at No.401, SLV Defense Paradise Apartments, Duo Marvel Layout, Bengaluru-560064, hereby declare that my minor son's name is wrongly mentioned as **HARSHAD** in Passport No. U8861602.His correct name is **S.HARSHAD**. Henceforth, he shall be known as **S.HARSHAD** for all purposes. Both **HARSHAD"** and **S. HARSHAD** refer to one and the same person.
-R. SENTHIL KUMAR

I,KULKARNI RENUKA alias Anushree daughter of Kulkarni Krishna Raj and wife of Amaranath residing at 2–69, ward No. 01, Near Devamma Temple, VTC Doranahalli, P. O.Doranahalli, Sub District Yadgir, State Karnataka – 585223 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anushree.

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Timings: 10.00 AM to 9.00 PM

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-7)
O.S.2014/2024
BETWEEN
SRI. SRINIVASA B Aged about 58 years, S/o Late. Boraiah R/at No.208/A, 9th Cross Road, Vidyaranya Road, Lakshmipura Govipuram Extension, K.G. Nagar Bengaluru-560019. ...PLAINTIFF
AND.
Smt.puttalingamma And Others....**Defendants**
SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT NO.9
To: Smt. T.Vijayalaxmi D/o Thimmegowda, No.338, 3rd Main Road, Sindhu Nadhi Road, Brundahvannagar Bengaluru - 560050
Where, as the above name plaintiff institute a suit in **O.S.2014/2024** against defendant, for the relief of their partition and separate possession of their 1/7 share in the suit schedule property. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court on 4/8/2026 at 11.am in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the question to the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as Ex-parte.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing NO.208/A/15, New No.372/A, PID No.52-41-372/A, originally layout was framed by the Bangalore Development Authority in the survey No.1 to 72 of the situated at Vidyaranya Road, Govipuram Layout, Kempegowda Nagar, Bengaluru, measuring East West 34+30/2 North to South 35+34/2, totallymeasuring 122.66 square Gaja now comes within the jurisdiction of BBMP at Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Road. West by: Site No.209. North by: Road:South by: Site No.208 Given Under my hand and seal of the court, this dated 29/6/2026
By order of the Court Asst. Registrar
City Civil Court Bengaluru
ADDRESS OF THE ADVOCATEF
JAGADEESHA P - ADVOCATE Office at NO.6, Mayura Building,1st Floor, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru - 560018

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ANITA BALCHANDRA (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next –of–Kin POR/Service Documents), spouse of SHAH MANUBHAI DAHYALAL (Name of Husband) resident of # 18–2–400, Chidri Road, Ramnagar Colony, Bidar (Address) have changed my Name from ANITA BALCHANDRA (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next –of–Kin POR/Service Documents) to ANNES SHAH (proposed/adopted New Name) via Affidavit dated 02072026 (date of Affidavit in DDMMYYYY format) at Bidar (Place).

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Karnataka Housing Board
KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Notification No.KHB/CE/AEF/S&S/Janawada-Bidar/KHB/2026-27/SE0401 Date: 02.07.2026
Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the work of Proposed Development of sites and services scheme in an extent of 94A-12G at Aliyambar Village, Janawada Hobli, Bidar Taluk, Bidar District.
Last date for Submission of bid is on 16.07.2026 upto 4.00 PM.
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511 , Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1473/AKAR/2026-27

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 22265383
website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-05/435/2026-27 Date : 03.07.2026
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Portal Only)
Item rate Tenders are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:
Name of the work : (1) Construction of Compound Wall Adjacent to Nagasamudhra Village and sinking of Borewell and repairs to pipeline in Narasapura Industrial Area, Gadag District. (2) Reconstruction of Road, RCC Drain and RCC Box Culvert at Basavakalyan Industrial Area, Bidar District. (3) Formation of 24M Wide Road of Flexible Pavement, Construction of RCC Side Drains with Pedestrian Footpath, Connecting the Airport directly from to NH-50 in Vijayapura Taluk & District.
Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Scheduled of date are as follows:
Last date for submission of Tender: **21-07-2026 up to 4.00 pm.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2
K.I.A.D.B, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1477/AKAR/2026-27

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY
Mahaveer Marg, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-028
NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSION IN TO UG & PG PROGRAMS UNDER INTERNATIONAL QUOTA - 2026
Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University, Hyderabad is inviting applications from the eligible candidates for admission into UG & PG Programs offered in the Constituent Colleges of JNAFAU under International Quota for the Academic Year 2026-27.
The application form, eligibility, fee structure and other details are available in the University website www.jnafau.ac.in. Eligible candidates who wish to apply may submit filled in application form (IS20), photocopies of relevant documents/certificates and Application fee & Processing Fee (refer to fee structure available in the website for fee to be paid and mode of payment) at the office of the Director, International Relations Cell, Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University, Mahaveer Marg, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-028. **The last date for submission of filled in application form (IS20) is 24-07-2026.**
Note: For detailed information regarding programs, eligibility, important dates, fee structure, admission procedure and latest updates visit website www.jnafau.ac.in or Contact: 8074700647.
No: JNAFAU/IRC/UG&PG/1 dt: 03-07-2026
R.O. No. : 277-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 03.07.2026
Sd/-
DIRECTOR, IRC

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller's Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR UPSC MAINS SUPPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2026-27
Online Application
Applications are called for UPSC Mains supporting program at Flaviant Network Pvt. Ltd., (Forum IAS), Chandra Layout, Bengaluru for the students belonging to religious minority community for the year 2026-27.
Timeline
Date for submission of applications starts from: 04.07.2026
Last date for submission of applications: 10.07.2026
Eligibility
- Students must be residence of Karnataka State.
- Students must be belonging to religious minority community (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi).
- Students must be cleared UPSC Preliminary Exam 2026.

Instructions for Applicants
- Applicants are advised the application form available on the website of the Directorate of Minorities at: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in/ Google link https://forms.gle/hjnh8HwpBuTHyYmc9** and submit the application as per the guidelines.
- For more details contact your concerned District Minority Officer, Minority Welfare Department and also contact Helpline Number: 8277799990.

Date: 04.07.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1471/MAA/2026-27

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

First home, now an asset

Affordability pressures are reshaping how new buyers evaluate houses, future value

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Monty Joshi

The journey to purchasing a first home now begins much earlier than it used to: long before a site visit, and long before a loan discussion. Buyers spend months online comparing localities, checking developer histories, tracking metro expansion plans, calculating EMIs, and trying to understand whether a purchase made today will still make sense years later. An eXp India study tracking Google Trends between July 2025 and January 2026 recorded a 58.5% rise in property purchase searches alongside a 43.4% jump in agency inquiries. The volume reveals that people are researching harder before committing.

Part of that caution comes from affordability pressure. ANAROCK data shows that homes priced below ₹40 lakh now account for only 10% of new launches, while units above ₹1.5 crore make up 53% of supply pipelines. The entry point into urban ownership has shifted sharply upwards, causing younger buyers to become more cautious than they were a decade ago.

Earlier, homebuyers thought of buying homes for the first time as a step towards long-term settlement. The younger buyer, too, approaches property buying from the same perspective, but now the ambit of assessment also subsumes resale potential, rental fallback, and whether the home will remain financially manageable if jobs, cities, or priorities shift later.

A first home is the single largest purchase many young professionals make in their lives, which is precisely why the decision-making process has become more thoughtful and analytical. Buyers are asking questions on hidden charges, delivery credibility, maintenance, loan flexibility, rental demand, and future liquidity.

ANAROCK's housing sentiment survey for H1 2025 found that 63% of respondents now consider real estate their preferred asset class. Yet 65% still identified self-use as the primary reason for purchase, suggesting that emotional and practical motivations go hand in hand with financial thinking. Not that buyers are approaching homes like institutional investors; they are less willing to enter ownership blindly. Trust also shapes demand much more directly than before. A developer's delivery history and post-possession service are now front and centre in home-buying decisions. With homebuyers' confidence strengthened by RERA, their expectations around developer accountability have also increased.

> ***Earlier, homebuyers thought of their purchase as a step towards long-term settlement. The younger buyer, too, approaches property buying from the same perspective, but now the ambit of assessment also subsumes resale potential, rental fallback, and whether the home will remain financially manageable if jobs or cities shift later.***

Rental-focused thinking has also moved much closer to the nucleus of purchase calculations. Rental yields across major cities remain modest at around 3%-4%, and few buyers expect rent to cover an entire EMI. But the ability to generate some income later, in the event of job changes or relocation, influences how first homes are being evaluated.

Practical usage

In these post-pandemic times, buyers look at space differently. Personal comfort and dedicated areas for everyday routines have become primary considerations, with greater attention now being paid to how a home will accommodate changing lifestyles over the next several years. Noticing this shift, developers are offering more functional floor plans. On similar lines, features such as better access to open walking areas, natural light, and layouts that reduce long-term maintenance or utility costs are also gaining importance among buyers.

Connectivity relevance

Infrastructure has always influenced housing demand, but younger buyers' evaluation of connectivity differs from that of previous generations. Earlier, proximity often meant familiarity. Staying close to established neighbourhoods or family networks. Now, the emphasis is much more on future usability. Metro corridors, expressways, redevelopment belts, and employment clusters affect first-time purchase decisions because they reduce uncertainty around what comes later and ease buyers' hesitation around buying near peripheral markets. The impact is already becoming visible across several connectivity-led corridors within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Demand has stayed firm for compact homes across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, particularly in corridors witnessing redevelopment activity and improving connectivity prospects. Mid-segment housing constituted nearly 48% of Mumbai's new launches in Q1 2026, while the affordable category recovered to a 25% share after weaker quarters. Peripheral regions accounted for nearly 60% of total city sales during the quarter, with traction visible across parts of the Eastern Suburbs, Navi Mumbai, and Thane. Buyers are showing greater willingness to stretch commute distances if the trade-off brings lower entry pressure and stronger long-term usability, ensuring the property remains useful in the future.

The emotional value attached to ownership is still intact. Millennial and Gen Z buyers, however, are approaching homeownership with a more prudent understanding of how a first home may function over time. Rental fallback now figures into purchase calculations much earlier. Resale potential assumes importance from the outset. Hybrid work routines and movement across cities have also altered perceptions around permanence. Therefore, developers catering to younger buyers will have to contend with this change in thinking while planning homes and communities that stay financially workable across changing stages of life.

The writer is co-founder of Sarvam Properties.

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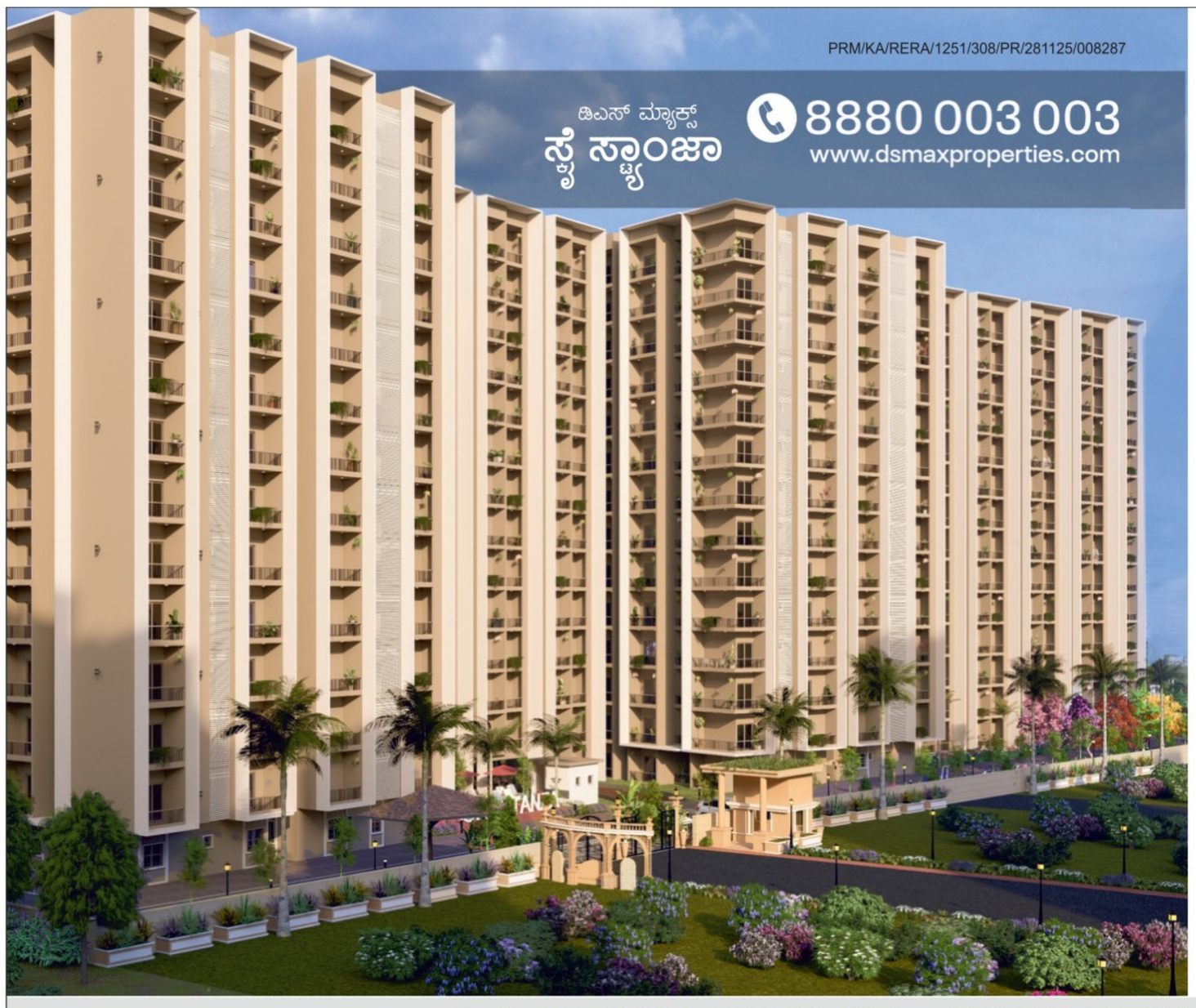

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Storage precarious across reservoirs; hopes pinned on rains in July, Aug.

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The rainfall deficiency in the State during June due to a sluggish start to the southwest monsoon has turned the spotlight on the storage position across major reservoirs, precarious compared to the scenario last year.

The water level in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam across the Cauvery was 80.82 ft as on Thursday, while it had attained its maximum capacity of 124.8 ft on the same day last year. The available storage in the reservoir as on Thursday was 6.75 tmcft against 45.05 tmcft on the same day last year.

As per the data of the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the cumulative storage across the major reservoirs as on Thursday was 189 tmcft against the installed gross storage capacity of 895.65 tmcft. This is hardly 21% of the installed capacity and is in contrast to the cumulative storage position on the same day last year – 535.39 tmcft or nearly 60% of the capacity.

The water level in the Krishnaraja Sagar dam across the Cauvery was 80.82 ft as on Thursday, while it had attained its maximum capacity of 124.8 ft on the same day last year. FILE PHOTO

The Elusive Rain

Cauvery and Krishna basins

The low storage position is a direct fallout of deficient rainfall and is visible across all river basins. For instance, in the Cauvery basin of the State, the gross capacity across the Krishnaraja Sagar, Hemavathi, Kabini and Harangi dams is 114.57 tmcft, against which the available storage on Thursday was 24.47 tmcft. This contrasts the cumulative storage of 93.93 tmcft on the same day last year.

The Krishna basin presents a mixed picture. Almatti contained 20.9 tmcft, against its gross capacity of 123.08 tmcft, while Narayanapura, benefiting from upstream releases and inflows, was relatively better placed at 61% of the capacity.

Storage in the Krishna basin is 91.29 tmcft as against 282.81 tmcft stored on the same day last year. The hydel reservoirs held 49.4 tmcft as on Thursday, compared to 133.7 tmcft last year, according to KSNDMC.

Other reservoirs

Among the other major reservoirs, Linganamakki has a storage of only 15.17 tmcft against its capacity of 151.75 tmcft, and the storage position of Bhadra, as on Thursday, is 24.88 tmcft against 46.01 tmcft during the corresponding period last year.

Only Narayanapura and Vani Vilas Sagar have crossed the halfway mark of their storage capacities, at 61% and 78% respectively, so far this year.

The rainfall pattern during June indicates that the catchments feeding the Cauvery reservoirs, particularly in Kodagu, Hassan and Mysuru regions, have not yet received the sustained spells required to generate large inflows.

(The writer is a freelance journalist.)

Water level in reservoirs as on July 2

Dam	Max height (ft)	Water level (ft)	Storage capacity (tmcft)	Actual storage (tmcft)
KRS	124.8	80.82	49.45	6.75
Hemavathi	2922	2891.53	37.1	13.57
Kabini	2284	2253.8	19.52	1.34
Harangi	2859	2827.97	8.5	2.81
Bhadra	2158	2109	71.54	24.88
Tungabhadra	1633	1587.86	105.79	9.33
Almatti	1704.81	1666.19	123.08	20.9
Narayanapura	1615	1604.11	33.31	20.28

Source: Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre

An inter-State ramification

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The current reservoir situation also has an inter-State ramification as Karnataka has to meet its obligation to the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu.

It had to release 9.14 tmcft in June and 31.24 tmcft in July during a normal water year extending from June to May.

Fresh crisis

With the four principal reservoirs in the Cauvery basin holding barely a quarter of last year's storage at this stage, any prolonged delay in the monsoon gaining vigour could precipitate a fresh crisis.

It could bring the entire Cauvery basin under stress and augment the challenge before the State of balancing the requirement of the Karnataka farmers while also meeting its statutory obligation to release water to the neighbouring State under the prescribed monthly schedule.

Hydel storage second-lowest in last 10 years

The cumulative storage in all three hydel reservoirs accounted for a mere 14.9% of the full capacity on Friday; it was 44.05% on the same day last year

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

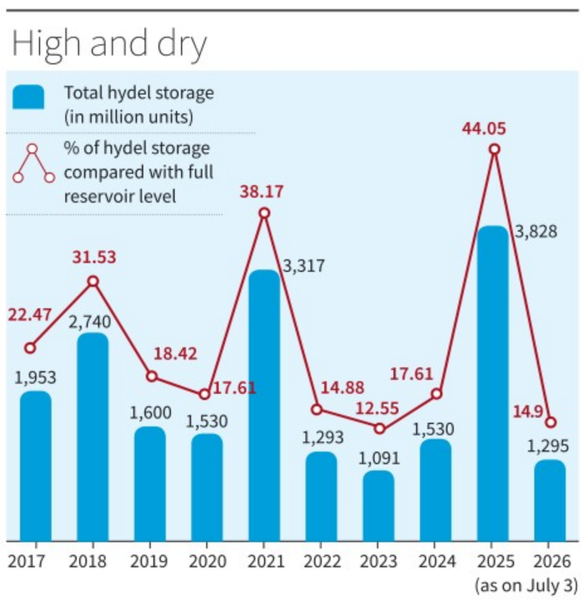
The deficit monsoon has already cast its shadow over Karnataka's power sector, with the State's present hydel storage being the second-lowest in the last 10 years.

The cumulative storage in all the three major hydel reservoirs of the State – Linganamakki, Supa, and Mani – accounted for a mere 14.9% of the full capacity at 8 a.m. on July 3, as against 44.05% of storage during the corresponding period last year.

The only other time in the last 10 years when hydel storage was lesser than this level was in 2023, when the State was gripped by a serious drought. At that time, the total hydel storage accounted for a mere 12.55%, according to the statistics available with the Energy Department.

Though the hydel storage stood at only 14.88% in the corresponding period in 2022 too, the heavy rains in the catchment areas had pushed up the storage to 15.65% by the next day itself and to 44.8% by mid-July then.

Bleak picture: Linganamakki dam accounted for only 10.92% of storage on July 3, as against 45.4% during the corresponding period last year. FILE PHOTO



As of now, the cumulative storage in the three hydel reservoirs could help generate only 1,295 million units of power as against 3,828 million units during the corresponding period in the previous year.

The reservoir-wise breakup of storage reflects a bleak picture, with Linganamakki dam accounting for only 10.92% of storage as against 45.4% during the corresponding period last year. The reservoir has reported inflows to the tune of 11,485 cusecs as against 45,070 cusecs during the corresponding period last year.

The only other time when hydel storage was lesser than this level was in 2023, when the State was gripped by a serious drought

Supa dam too has just 20.18% of storage as against the previous year's level of 41.25%, and inflows of 1,825 cusecs against last year's 36,872 cusecs. Mani dam too presents a similar scenario by accounting for a poor storage of just 16.4% as against previous year's 46.83%. Worse, there are no inflows to this reservoir as of now.

Power experts and officials fear that the State's power sector may face cascading problems if the storage scenario does not improve. "Karnataka depends heavily on hydel energy for effective management of its peak load. Also, the hydel energy is very economical when compared with other forms of power. Hence, any further failure of monsoon may affect the peak hour management of power supply and also force the State to buy additional power from costly sources to tide over shortage in the later stages," observed an official, adding a rider that one has to wait for at least a couple of months to arrive at any conclusion.

The officials point out that robust hydel storage fuelled by heavy rains last year had helped the State effectively manage the peak load even when the demand had touched a record 18,650 MW during summer months.

Rainfall for June in the State was deficit to the extent of 42%. Any shortage in rainfall in the southwest monsoon causes concern among policy makers and experts as it is the mainstay of the State's weather system, accounting for 73-75% of the calendar year's rainfall. The northeast monsoon accounts for only around 23-25% of rainfall.

From Page One

Tata Power withdraws application for parallel power distribution

In its petition, Bescom had raised some important objections pointing to its legal non-compliance, network deficiency, consumer protection risks and competition concerns, among others.

In its petition, opposing the TPCL's application, the Bescom had argued that: "According to the Electricity Act 2003, Tata must have their own infrastructure in place and it is not possible for them to build it in 30 days after the approval of licence."

The petition also stated that TPCL wants to enter profitable markets without bearing the full obligations of a distribution licencee and rely on Bescom's infrastructure instead of building its own. The power utility argued if the licence is approved, then it violates the Electricity Act, 2003 in letter and spirit.

'No proposal of privatisation'

Recently, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Energy Minister K.J. George had also told the employees of Energy Department that there was no proposal of privatisation for power sector. Mr. Shivakumar had criticised the erstwhile Bhartiya Janata Party-led Central government that brought the Electricity Act 2003, aiming to dismantle State-run monopolies and allowing private players in energy sector.

Individual objections

In the State Cabinet meeting held on Thursday, other Escom officials were also directed to file individual objections against Tata. Mr. Shivakumar had said, "The application for parallel power distribution has been made before the KERC by the TPCL. The government will represent its objections through the Escoms, which have been asked to file individual objections before the KERC."

CM instructs energy department officials to be prepared amid El Nino

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Keeping in mind the possibility of a decline in hydropower generation due to the effect of El Nino, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has instructed officials to formulate a special emergency action plan and pay urgent attention to storage and production of energy through other sources.

Conducting the first progress review of the Energy Department here on Friday, the Chief Minister obtained details of the precautionary measures taken by the department to deal with the drought situation and take necessary steps to prevent public consumption.

He instructed that coal mines dedicated to the government should be operationalised for energy security, and sufficient coal storage should be maintained continuously.

"In the current situation, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) should be implemented quickly for efficient management of renewable energy. We have become an IT capital. We are moving in the direction of making our State the capital of AI as well. Therefore, we should prepare immediately for the increasing demand for electricity from data centres, AI infrastructure and the digital economy," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the first progress review meeting of the Energy Department at Shakti Bhavan in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

Since the peak electricity demand is expected to reach 38 gigawatts (GW) by 2035, he suggested that a plan to increase generation capacity should be prepared along with the necessary financing roadmap.

'Clear Escom dues'

Energy Minister K.J. George appealed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar that steps should be taken to resolve the outstanding balance of ₹12,631 crore owed to Escoms by various government departments quickly or through securitisation.

'Tech-driven value addition need of the hour for Indian agriculture'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Value addition with the help of modern technology is the need of the hour for Indian agriculture today and through value addition, the farmer community in the country will be equipped to cater to global markets, said Shobha Karandlage, Minister of State for MSME, Labour and Employment.

She was speaking at the opening session of a two-day International Conference on Agri-Tech and Plantation 5.0: Innovation, Sustainability and Value-Driven Business Strategies at the Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) where several industry leaders, global agro experts, scientists and heads of various commodity boards also spoke.

The Minister stressed that value addition, branding, processing and global marketing are essential to enhance farmers' income and strengthen India's position in global markets. "Just focusing on production is no longer enough today. Working towards value addition is the need of the hour. Through this, farmers will be able to fetch better and higher returns for their agro produce.'' Ms. Karandlaje emphasised.

Somnath Chatterjee, executive vice-president and head of Procurement & Logistics, Food Division, ITC Limited, highlighted the growing need for stronger collaboration between academia and industry.

ಡಾ॥ ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus, Dr. B.R AmbedkarVeedhi, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Ph.NM.080-22961016, E-mail: bcuacct@gmail.com

Tender No: BCU/2026-27/AUCTION 10 Date:03.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Name of the work	E-Auction for Investment of Surplus Funds in fixed deposits
EMD	**Rs. 1000**
Last date for queries	**08.07.2026**
Last Date To Upload Tender Document	**13.07.2026**
Date Of Evalution	**14.07.2026**
Participation Of Bid Auction Date	**17.07.2026**

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/1478/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Smt. RAJALAKSHMI RAGAVACHARI (91)

wife of late Sri P S Ragavachari, attained Acharyan Tiruvadi on Friday, July 3rd 2026

Deeply mourned by

Indu & K Venugopal, Sashi & Shyam Raman and Grandchildren - Divya & Rohan, Lavanya, Krithvi & Keerthi, Krishna and great grandchildren

4/35, Sripuram First Street, Royapettah, Chennai 600014.

DEATH

R. BALAKRISHNAN (63), Retired Executive - Advt Commercial, THE HINDU, Chennai passed away on 03.07.2026 Address: 95/33, T N R Villa, Vanniar Street, Choolaimedu, Chennai- 600094. Ct: 9841073943

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Shwetha Menon

Internal rift in Malayalam film actors' body deepens

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The internal friction in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) deepened on Friday as Joy Mathew, Jayan Cherthala, and Kailash submitted their official resignations from the executive committee against the stand taken by its president, Shwetha Menon, that the committee would continue until the next election.

Ms. Menon, who had announced her resignation from the post of president following a stormy general body meeting held on June 21, had said in a social media post on Thursday that she would not step down until she proved her innocence.

The 17-member panel led by her decided to step down after a section of the association moved a no-confidence motion against the leadership at the general body meeting. The executive committee was accused of failing to run the day-to-day affairs of the organisation and resolve the disputes within the outfit.

A 'calm' Siddaramaiah keeps everyone guessing

The reticence of the towering OBC leader following the transition has left many intrigued

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Much against speculation of trouble over the transition of power from former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to incumbent D.K. Shivakumar, the process was smooth – a fact the Congress high command has repeatedly highlighted. However, the reticence of the towering OBC leader following the transition has left many intrigued. Mr. Siddaramaiah has remained largely out of the public eye as the new government, which includes his son, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, took shape and got down to work over the past month.

Siddaramaiah has remained largely out of the public eye as the new government took shape and got down to work over the past month.

'Exclusion' blues

However, reliable Congress sources said that the former Chief Minister expressed anguish at his name being excluded from the function to inaugurate new crest gates to the Tungabhadra reservoirs. It was a high-profile event which saw Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh participate. His name was also excluded during the inauguration of the 10.7 kms, 10-lane signal-free S.M. Krishna Road that connects Challaghatta Metro Station on Mysuru Road and Kadabagere Cross on Magadi Road.

"Both projects received funding during the Siddaramaiah-led government, and he has expressed his unhappiness in his close circles over his name not being part of the invite or being taken during both functions," a legislator said.

"During Mr. Siddaramaiah's long political career, periods of silence have always been watched with curiosity."

Active participation

Within the Congress, leaders believe that the OBC leader's active participation would be key in future elections for the party, as his sway still holds over several communities across the State. His appeal among the OBCs, especially Kurubas, Dalits and Muslims is known.

"These communities are there in every constituency across the State, and that makes him an important figure in electoral politics. While many State leaders dabbled in national politics but failed, he has remained firm in the State and has cultivated his constituency well," said a senior leader.

'Permanent' place

"The throne of the Chief Minister is mortal. The throne in the hearts of people are immortal. No one can bring me down from there. The agreement between the people and I is permanent," Mr. Siddaramaiah had said on X last week, after receiving an overwhelming reception in Mysuru during his first visit after stepping down.

A top-ranking leader, acknowledging Mr. Siddaramaiah's political equity in the State's politics, said, "We are watching the developments on whether a calm will prevail or it is a calm before the storm."

Shivakumar seeks former CM's blessings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, accompanied by his wife Usha, and his brother and former Member of Parliament D.K. Suresh, paid a courtesy visit on Friday to his predecessor Siddaramaiah, coinciding with the completion of one month in the post. "Grateful for his (Mr. Siddaramaiah) blessings and continued support. I value his guidance and blessings as we continue working with dedication build a stronger, more progressive Karnataka," Mr. Shivakumar said on X after the breakfast with Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The Chief Minister said, "His guidance and blessings have always been an inspiration in building comprehensive development of the State, public welfare and a secure future." A party source said that the two leaders have a good relationship and that Friday's visit was testimony to it. "They have decided to meet regularly to take stock of the situation and exchange notes on the political developments."

HC quashes plea for CBI probe in ED attack case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition seeking a probe by the CBI into the attack on Enforcement Directorate officials following a raid at Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan's house in May.

The court noted the "substantial progress" made by the Kerala Police in the investigation into the attack. It held that there was no need to direct a CBI probe at this stage.

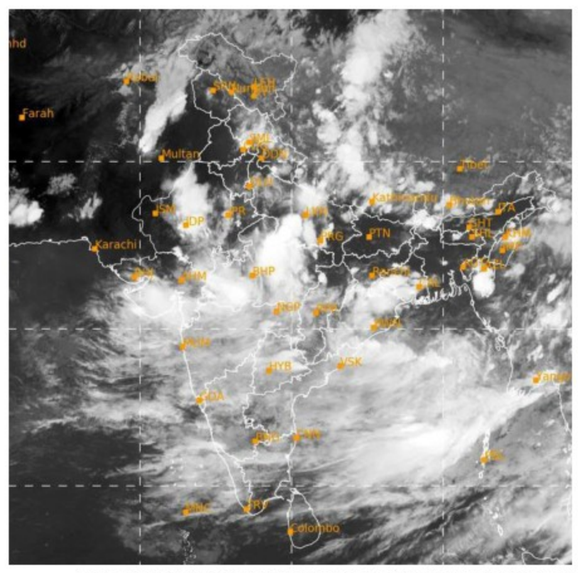
The Commissioner of Police, Thiruvananthapuram City, updated the court regarding the investigation. The court was informed that an FIR was registered with the Museum police station under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984, and was submitted before the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Thiruvananthapuram.

Twenty-five accused have been identified, arrested, and sent to judicial custody. The wound certificates of those among the accused, and the officials who were injured in the attack, have also been collected. Relevant footage of the incident was obtained from the media that had reported it, and 44 witnesses were examined, the report stated.

The Commissioner assured the court that the final report on the case will be filed without any delay and sought for the PIL to be set aside.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.0	27.0	Kurnool	2.8	33.2	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	32.2	27.8	Lucknow	4.5	37.6	27.0
Aizawl	11	33.5	23.6	Madurai	—	39.0	27.1
Bengaluru	—	27.2	20.8	Mangaluru	16.8	28.2	24.4
Bhopal	17.8	29.0	23.7	Mumbai	101	27.1	24.5
Bhubaneswar	28.6	30.4	25.2	Mysuru	3	28.8	20.0
Chandigarh	—	37.7	26.8	New Delhi	0.8	35.8	28.1
Chennai	—	35.5	29.5	Patna	—	37.0	29.0
Coimbatore	0.2	31.6	22.6	Port Blair	0.8	30.0	27.1
Dehradun	3.2	34.1	24.8	Prayagraj	20.6	37.6	27.0
Gangtok	12.8	24.1	17.6	Puducherry	—	36.3	29.5
Goa	62.2	32.0	24.5	Pune	29.4	26.2	22.2
Guwahati	0.8	34.4	27.0	Raipur	38.2	30.0	25.0
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Ranchi	—	28.0	23.0
Hyderabad	3	29.2	24.5	Shillong	0.1	26.7	17.8
Imphal	—	29.3	24.1	Shimla	19.5	26.4	19.6
Jaipur	32.5	34.0	22.7	Srinagar	1.2	31.7	19.3
Kochi	20	27.4	24.4	Thiruvananthapuram	10.2	31.1	24.5
Kohima	—	27.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	36.9	27.0
Kolkata	13.4	35.5	27.4	Vijayawada	0.7	32.0	25.4
Kozhikode	36.6	27.0	24.5	Visakhapatnam	0.1	29.3	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.41	..34	42	 63	83	
Bengaluru	.15	..30	52	..... —	...109	
Chennai	...5	..14	53	 40	53	
Delhi	.50	..23	92	... 136	99	
Hyderabad	.11	..20	31	 57	66	
Kolkata	.14	..19	77	 69	83	
Lucknow	.14	..30	26	 61	58	
Mumbai	...4	..15	79	 38	49	
Pune	..—	..33	99	 30	39	
Visakhapatnam	.19	..57	20	 33	79	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Panipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 218 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SAI

DATE:- 03.07.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites e-tender for following works: -

1. **SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-MESS/2026-27 for PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALIZED LIVE TEPPANYAKI STATION FOR JAPANESE AND PAN ASIAN CUISINE LIVE COOKING COUNTER AT NCC/NCOE MESS DINING HALL AT SAI,NSSC,BANGALORE.** for more details please visit E-Tender website http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app, https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in & http://www.saisouth-bangalore.com.

The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is 09.07.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.

Sd/- Deputy Director-NCOE

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
ARM BRANCH – II
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencers Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru
Telefax: 080-25310181, E-Mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
(For Immovable property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **30.07.2025** calling upon the Borrower/s **(1) Sri. Praveen M** S/o Sri. Mahadevappa, residing at No.4, friends colony, 3rd cross bhcs layout,1st main road, subramanyapura uttarahalli bengaluru-560061, **(2) Smt. Sowmya M** W/o Sri. Praveen m residing at no. 4, friends colony, 3rd cross bhcs layout,1st main road, Subramanyapura post, uttarahalli bengaluru-560061, and Builder who has executed tripartite agreement **(1) M/s Sri krishna excel stone builders & developers (Builder)** a partnership firm having its registered office at No.128, green garden layout, munnekolala, bengaluru-560037. Represented by its managing partner, Sri N. Kannaiah naidu & partner Smt. Rohini naidu. **(2) Sri. N. Kannaiah Naidu (managing partner)** S/o Sri. Narasimhalu naidu residing at no. 15,6th cross, masjid road, near manipal hospital, hal 3rd stage, kodihalli, bengaluru -560008, **(3) Smt. Rohini Naidu (partner)** Sri. N. Kannaiah naidu residing at no. 15,6th cross, masjid road, near manipal hospital, hal 3rd stage, Kodihalli, Bengaluru -560008 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.1,01,45,400.42/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Forty-Five Thousand Four Hundred and Paisa Forty-Two Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **01st July of 2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs. 1,11,43,136.62 (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakh Forty-Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Six and Paisa Sixty-Two Only) as on 30.06.2026** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property :

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of residential converted land bearing Sy. No. 73/5, measuring 1Acre 17 Guntas and residential converted land bearing Sy. No.73/6, measuring 21 guntas , both the properties totally measuring 1 acre 38 guntas (converted vide official memorandum dated 06/7/2013,bearing No. ALN(EVH)SR/443/2012-13,issued by deputy commissioner ,Bangalore District Bangalore, Presently Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagra Palika Khata No. 359/73/5/73/6/17, situated at Balagere Village ,Varthur Hobli ,Bangalore East Taluk,bangalore and bounded on the : East by : Remaining portion of Sy. No 73/5 and 73/6, West by : Remaining portion of Sy. No 73/5 and 73/6, North by: Land bearing Sy. No 73/4, South by: Road.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 297 Sq.ft Undivided share ,right ,title and interest in the schedule "A" property (proportionate to the schedule "C" property.)

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : A residential apartment bearing No. 204 ,second floor ,in Block A in wing B with SBA 1108 Sq.ft consisting of 2 bedrooms in the multistoried residential apartment building known as "SRI KRISHNA EXCEL STONE" constructed over the schedule "A" property inclusive of proportionate share in the Common areas (including half portion in depth of the joints between the ceiling of apartment and floors of the apartment above it, internal and external walls between such levels) and the building is of RSS roofing as per specification appended hereto with separate electricity ,common water and sanitation, including all rights, title ,interest ,privileges, appurtenances, together with Car/Scooter parking slot.

Date : 01.07.2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: ECN-02-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Electrical	**Rs. 1,28,26,370/-**

Arrangements for extension of dedicated 11 KV HT Feeder additionally as per BESCOM directives for facilitating reliable power supply at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal - Baiyyapanahalli, Bengaluru (SMVB).

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 22.07.2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ TRD-II/Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/253/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **MR.SHANTHKUMAR DHANAPAL,** S/o Sri.K.M.Dhanapal, aged about 62 years, to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale Deed bearing doc.No.5786/1965-66, in Book-1, Volume No.2544 at pages 205 to 206, dated:06.12.1965, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, North Taluk, Bangalore, is lost.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **14 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE :

All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing **New Municipal No.25, PID No.42-40-25, e-PID NO.1551474332, site No.25, Old No.9/22,** situated at Guddadahalli Extension, Bapujinagar, BBMP Ward No.134, measuring **East to West: 40-0 Feet and North to South: 30-0 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet** and bounded on: **East by : Site No.26 (Old No.9/11), West by : Road, North by : Site No.24, South by: Property belongs to B.R.Neelavathi.**

Raviprakash.H.C, Advocate,
#644/32, 6th Main, Vijayanagar,
Bengaluru-560040.
Mobile No : 9980052890 / 8660025758

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public that **MY CLIENT SMT. H.G. PRABHA,** W/o. Sri. Srinivas .P. have entered into an agreement for purchase of the schedule property from the owners **SMT. LAKSHMI RAMAN, W/o. Late A. Raman AND her only son Mr. VISHWANATH RAMAN,** S/o. Late A. Raman, both are residing at No.455, 11th Main, 15 A Bus Stop, Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore-560 070, whosoever have got any interest, title, claim or objection over the sale of the schedule property shall lodge their claims or objections in writing with documentary evidence with the under signed within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication.

Which it would be deemed that there are no claims or objection for sale of the said property and my clients will complete the sale transactions presuming that there are no claims or objections from anybody.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No.455, Jayanagar Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., formed Layout in Kadirenahalli, Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore-560 070, than Bengaluru South City Corporation Ward No.182, Padmanabhanagar Ward, Jayanagar HBCS Layout, 11th Main Road, 1st Stage, Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore, Presently e PID No. 5959994126, Property No.455, measuring East to West : 13.72 Mtrs., and North to South : 9.14 Mtrs., together with building and bounded on:- **East by :** Road, **West by :** Site No.458, **North by :** Site No.456, **South by :** Site No.454.

V.S. BASAVARAJU, Advocate
No. 3/2, 1st Cross, 3rd Main Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018.
Date : 03.07.2026

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
ARM BRANCH – II
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencers Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru
Telefax: 080-25310181, E-Mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
(For Immovable property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **27.04.2026** calling upon the Borrower/s **(1) Smt. Rakshitha M** W/o Mr. Babu K No. 56 B , Nakshathra Vibhavam , 8th cross, Elza Enclave Vaddarapalya ,Horamavu Agara Bangalore-560043, **(2) Sri. Babu K** S/o Sri. Konappa No.72 Sri Sai Nilaya , Anjanadri Layout Babusapalya, Kalyannagar Bangalore-560043 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.72,49,479.56/- (Rupees Seventy-Two Lakh Forty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Nine and Paisa Fifty-Six Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **02nd July of 2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs.73,93,913.56 (Rupees Seventy-Three Lakh Ninety-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Thirteen and Paisa Fifty-Six Only)** as on **01.07.2026** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property :

SCHEDULE "A" : ITEM No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing municipal No. 2164/84/1, being a residentially converted land out of Sy. No 84/1, situated at Rachenahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli ,Bangalore East Taluk , Bangalore ,Measuring 2 Acres 00 ½ Guntas (Excluding Kharab land) converted Vide order bearing No.B.DIS.ALN(EAST) SR (KRAHO)/68/2008-09, dated 17.12.2008 ,passed by the Special D.C Bangalore District and bounded on the : East by: remaining land in Sy. No. 84/1, West by: Land bearing Sy. No. 81, North by: Government Road and South by:Land bearing Sy No. 83.

ITEM NO. 2 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing municipal No's 37/1/84/1 and 2165/84/1 being a residentially converted land out of Sy. No 84/1 situated at Rachenahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring 3 acres 12 Guntas (excluding kharab Land) converted vide orders bearing No's B.DIS.ALN(EAST)SR. (KRAHO)/68/2008-09, dated 17.12.2008 and No's B.DIS.ALN(EAST)SR.(KRAHO)/69/2008-09, dated 20.12.2008, passed by the special D.C Bangalore District and bounded on the: East by: land bearing Sy. No 84/2, West by: land owned by Sri A.T. Babu Rao and Sri A.T Shankar Rao in same survey number, North by : 60 ft. Government Road and property belonging Sri. N Lokappa & others in the same survey number, South by: Land bearing Sy. No. 83 .

COMPOSITE AMALGAMATED PROPERTY OF ITEM NO. 1 & 2 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No's 37/1/84/1 being a residentially converted land out of Sy No. 84/1 situated at Rachenahalli Village ,K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk , Banaglore in all measuring 5 acre 12 ½ Guntas or 2,31,412 sqft (excluding Kharab land) converted vide orders bearing No's B.DIS.ALN(EAST) SR. (KRAHO)/68/2008-09 dated 17.12.2008 and No's B.DIS.ALN (EAST) SR (KRAHO)/69/2008-09 dated 20/12/2008 passed by the special D C Bangalore District, and bounded on the: East: By land Bearing Sy No. 84/2, West: By land Bearing Sy No. 81, North : By 60 ft Govt. Road and property belonging to Sri N. Lokappa & others in the same survey number, South:By land bearing Sy No. 83.

Schedule "B" : 469.51 Sq.ft of undivided right, title, interest and ownership in schedule A property mentioned above.

Schedule "C" : The apartment bearing No. C-308 on the third floor of Block "C" in VASATHI AVANTHE constructed on the schedule - A property measuring 1466.36 Sq.ft of Super built up area and proportionate share in common areas such as passages lobbies, lifts ,wells, Staircase and other areas of common use and one reserved covered Car Parking slot. situated at Rachenahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk , Bangalore. and bounded on the : East: By Open Area, West: By Ent/Corridor, North: By C-307, South: By Open Area.

Date : 02.07.2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking
Regional Office: 2254, "Kousalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore - 570 005

POSSESSION NOTICE
(See Rule 8(1)Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the Undersigned being the authorised officer of **Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Mysuru** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) to repay the amount together with the future interest. till payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, for an amount mentioned in the below column + interest and costs thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

Union Bank Of India, Channapatna Branch, No. 2911/4-10, B.M. Road, Kuvempunagara, Channapatana, Ramanagara Dist - 562160, Ph: 08105899525, 9891894467 Mail Id: ubin0910821@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ Gurantors/Mortgager	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Total Dues	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Possession Taken
1.	1) **Mr. Chowdagowda B C,** S/o Late Chowdegowda, J. Bydarahalli Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramangara – 562160, 2) **Mrs. Poornima,** C/o Mr. Chowdagowda B C, J. Bydarahalli Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramangara – 562160 , 3) **Mr. Basavaraju Prasanna,** C/o Mr. Chowdagowda B C, J. Bydarahalli Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramangara – 562160 4. **Ms. Nikitha,** C/o Mr. Chowdagowda B C, J. Bydarahalli Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramangara – 562160	**23-03-2026 & Rs. 78,01,087-00 as on 28-02-2026**	**Rs. 79,10,804-00 as on 31-05-2026 (Plus Interest & Other Charges thereon)**	All The Part And Parcel Of Land And Residential House In The Name Of **Mr. Chowdegowda,** Bearing Khanesumari No. 46/34 Property No. 152900101200300046, Situated At J. Byadarahalli Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562138, **Measuring East-west: 11.8872 Meters, North-south: 30.48 Meters Total 362.32 Square meters, Bounded On The East:** Site Belonged To Ananthkumar S/o Hanumegowda, **West:** Vacant Site Belonged To Anitha W/o Revanna, **North:** Vacant Site Belonged To Prema W/o Ramakrishna, **South:** Road.	**02-07-2026**
2.	1) **Mr. Mariswamy @ Mari Swamy Gowda** S/o Late Sannegowda, Mylanayakanahalli Village & Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160, 2) **Mrs. Shashikala,** W/o Umesh, No. 90, Chikkanadoddi Village, Abbur, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna, Ramanagara - 562108, 3) **Mr. Prakash. M.,** S/o Mariswamy Gowda, No.120, Mylanayakanahalli Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 571501 4. **Mrs. Kavitha @ Baby** W/o Nataraju, Boohali Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara - 562138	**11-03-2026 & Rs. 83,96,990-00 as on 28-02-2026**	**Rs. 85,57,417-00 as on 31-05-2026 (Plus Interest & Other Charges thereon)**	All The Part And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Mariswamy @ Mariswamy Gowda,** Bearing Old Kaneshumari. No. 158, New Kaneshumari. No. 158/B Property No 152900101600300164, Situated At Mylanayakanahalli Village, Mylanayakanahalli Grama Panchayath Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160, **Measuring East - West : 6 Meters, North - South : 19 meters, Total 114 Square meters, Bounded On East:** House Of Murali & Chandra , **West:** House Of Ramaswamy , **North:** House Of Kariyappa, **South:** Road.	**02-07-2026**

Date : 02-07-2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place : Mysuru **Union Bank of India**

Manufacturing justice

Use of AI-fabricated judicial 'precedents' amounts to criminal misconduct

But for its serious implications, a judge relying on Artificial Intelligence (AI) hallucinations to arrive at a judicial determination would have been comical. Given the serious miscarriage of justice that such hallucinations can lead to, if used in the judicial processes, the Supreme Court of India has likened it to methyl isocyanate, the poisonous gas that led to the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984 – "invisible, insidious, and catastrophic by the time anyone notices". The Court made these observations while setting aside the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in an insolvency case after finding that the NCLT had relied on fictitious AI-generated legal citations, a lapse overlooked by the appellate tribunal. This is the latest in a series of interventions by the Court this year, cautioning against the use of AI-generated fictitious judicial precedents in court proceedings. Through its rulings and oral observations, the Court has consistently adopted a strict and cautionary approach to the deployment of AI in the justice delivery system. On February 27, the same Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe took cognisance of a trial court relying on AI-generated fictitious case laws and underlined that it was not merely "an error in decision-making" but amounted to judicial "misconduct".

The Court has made clear that AI may serve as an assistive tool to improve efficiency, but it can never replace independent human reasoning, judicial discretion or professional accountability. In AI, humanity is encountering what many experts fear might well be an existential question. AI disruption is a known unknown – everyone knows that it is happening but nobody quite knows its extent or implications. There is, however, enough evidence of a combination of human stupidity and deliberate design leading to dangerous social outcomes being derived from AI. Human oversight is the essential counter to these dangers. The Court has said that presenting fabricated, machine-generated judgments to a court constitutes professional misconduct for advocates and a serious lapse of duty for judges; and any judgment influenced by an iota of fake or hallucinated AI material is "no decision in the eyes of law". The draft 'Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026' prohibits AI in the making of judicial outcomes such as the function of adjudication, sentencing, or deciding bail eligibility and evaluating the credibility of parties or witnesses. Even as the draft is open for public consultation, the Court has directed the Bar Council of India (BCI) to set up a dedicated committee to formulate strict norms and define disciplinary actions for lawyers who cite unverified AI material. Justice must be done and seen; not hallucinated.

Counting cancer

Making cancer a notifiable disease at the national level is the way forward

What's good for the goose is surely good for the geese. What the States will benefit from, the country could too. In India, cancer is not a notifiable disease at the national level, keeping with the Health Ministry's position that such notification is only for communicable diseases. Population-based cancer registries and hospital-based cancer registries are currently the only national tool at the disposal of the Centre to count cancer cases. Unfortunately, these registries cover about 10%-16 % of the population, and have an urban, government health care set-up skew. However, several States have taken the lead on this front, making cancer a notifiable disease within their boundaries. Telangana is the latest to join the list of States that have made cancer a notifiable disease, bringing the total number of States doing so to 17.

With the Global Cancer Observatory (affiliated to the World Health Organization) projecting an estimated increase of 1.05 million cases between 2022 (1.41 million) and 2045 (2.46 million), the rise is expected to be a staggering over 74%. Given these projections, thanks to an increasing life span and ageing demographics, changes in lifestyle and diet, it becomes all the more important to be armed with data and get ready for vanguard action from a public health point of view. While State action can, to an extent, solve the data question, any benefit thus derived from notifying health authorities of every single case of cancer, it cannot become a rubric by which the nation can contour its cancer control programme. Apart from existing registries covering mostly urban and semi-urban posts, care in India is also delivered in good measure through the private sector and that data set is not uniformly captured. The Indian government must pay heed to its own counsel, the Indian Council of Medical Research, National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (now ICMR-NINE) had recommended that cancer be made a notifiable disease years ago. It is a fact that establishing cancer as a notifiable disease will mean a sudden increase in the number of cases being recorded, but it must not be considered a liability. Instead, it is merely part of the process of crafting a studied, and evidence-based response – health care and information, education, and communication (IEC) – to cancer at the country level. While bold advances in research and treatment methodologies have retrieved cancer from the fear and the utter helplessness surrounding it, the heart of the issue remains the lack of data. Taking lessons from the States, the Centre must recalibrate and make cancer a notifiable disease in India.

The Iran conundrum and the decline of the West

M.K. Narayanan

Former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Ever since 1945, the dominance of the United States and western Europe in world affairs has been taken for granted, largely because of their military power, technological innovations, and financial strength. This situation continued until fairly recently. However, the rise of China, along with the growing prominence of certain "middle powers" in recent years, has begun to dent – though not eclipse – the image of the U.S. as a superpower.

As China's influence over world affairs has grown, driven by its technological and innovative capabilities and its stranglehold over scarce strategic resources, the supremacy of the U.S. and the West has, however, appeared to wane. Many experts, nevertheless, continued to believe that there was still time before the West faced an effective challenge to its leadership. Concerns had, no doubt, grown about the U.S.'s structural vulnerabilities, though few expected that a country such as Iran would effectively deal a mortal blow to the image of the U.S. as the world's leading power.

The (now deceased) Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had once observed that, while Americans constantly threatened war, they lacked "staying power". This has now become apparent in ample measure. By contrast, in the course of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), Iran's Islamic regime demonstrated remarkable endurance, resilience, and determination to preserve the regime by all means necessary. U.S. President Donald Trump's failure to recognise this aspect has since cost him dearly. One leader who is seen to have emerged from the ashes of the U.S.-Iran conflict is Ali Khamenei's presumed successor, his son Mojtaba Khamenei, who is presently viewed by many as a "living martyr".

The new Iran-U.S. framework

Even prior to embarking upon substantive negotiations in Switzerland on all contentious issues, the U.S. and Iran entered into an "initial deal" (mid-June 2026) to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The announcement of the talks was cautiously welcomed by world leaders, though all agreed that difficult negotiations lay ahead. Prior to the formal talks, a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding was, interestingly enough, signed by Mr. Trump at the Palace of Versailles, France, on June 17, 2026, evoking comparisons with the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which is widely regarded as having imposed humiliating terms on Germany following the First World War.

The June 17 agreement was widely criticised as little more than a latter-day endorsement of the status quo that had existed prior to the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran, on February 28, 2026. The terms of the agreement included the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the lifting of the U.S. blockade, and a vague commitment by the U.S. and its regional partners to initiate plan, for at least $300 billion, for the reconstruction and economic development of Iran – the U.S. has since declared that no U.S. funds would flow directly to Iran. If so, this commitment could possibly refer to the release of Iranian assets that have been frozen by the U.S. over the years. The agreement also reportedly contains an important pledge by Iran not to develop a nuclear weapon.

Power realignments may follow the United States-Iran deal

The talks in Switzerland soon thereafter seemed little more than a formality, with the U.S. claiming, following their successful conclusion, that it had achieved a major milestone by persuading Tehran to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency back into the country, thereby opening a pathway to international monitoring of its nuclear programme. But Iran is said to have told its state media that Tehran had made "no new commitments" on nuclear inspections. The conclusion of the talks appeared to many observers to represent a "desperately needed truce" for the U.S., as it was followed shortly thereafter by the lifting of U.S. oil sanctions on Iran and the issuance of a 60-day waiver authorising the sale and transport of Iranian crude oil and petroleum products.

Newspaper headlines across the world had little to say about the deal and instead harped on the enormity of the setback to the image of the U.S. resulting from its coming to terms with Iran. Perhaps the most telling headline appeared on the front page of The Times of India (June 19, 2026): "Versailles II: Trump rushes where historians would dread to tread". Apart from the fact that the U.S. and its President have been excoriated for what critics have termed the "surrender blunder", the reality is that the deal has brought the U.S. few tangible benefits.

Intrinsic to, or as part of the deal are several other aspects of considerable interest, apart from sanctions relief for Iran's oil exports, *viz.*, the possibility of Iran assuming a formal role in managing traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and, (potentially), charging transit fees for passage through the Strait. Questions remain, however, regarding the safety of shipping routes, vessel security procedures, naval protection, and emergency response mechanisms. Many of these issues remain to be clarified.

The deal is important, even though its wording remains inchoate. It is widely portrayed as a deal between unequals, with Goliath having been worsted – or at least caught unawares by David. It also does not read like a standard diplomatic document. The implications of a superpower – the world's leading nuclear power – conceding ground to a battered Iran are huge and are unlikely to be lost on nations and major powers across the globe.

Israel-U.S. relations fracture

It also entails an important rupture in relations between the U.S. and Israel. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's devious plans to inveigle the U.S. in a conflict in West Asia, which was aimed at decimating Iran and establishing Israel's undisputed supremacy over the region has now become part of the detritus of history. The Israel-U.S. rupture, unless Tel Aviv bends substantially hereafter, could alter power equations in West Asia, leading to either an unsettled peace or further wranglings among Arabs, Iranians and Israelis.

What is also quite plausible is that Iran's claims to have bested the Great Satan, could lead the new Iranian regime, now increasingly under the tutelage of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) hotheads rather than the Ayatollahs, to revive conflicts with other Arab nations, apart from Israel itself. Such 'adventurism' could lead to more disparate conflicts in a vital region, which incorporates a critical artery of global energy supplies.

Many imponderables are still present. For one, the U.S.-Iran Agreement is almost certain to give a boost to hardliners in Iran who may believe that they have managed to 'defeat' the mighty U.S., signalling scope for a still more hardline policy, *vis-à-vis* not only Israel, the U.S., and other Arab States in the region but also their own people as well. For another, the IRGC, already on the ascendant, could feel more emboldened to act with impunity, having a new Ayatollah identified with it. The impact of all this would be felt not only in Iran but also in countries with large Shia populations, including India. A worsening of Shia-Sunni tensions in different pockets across the globe cannot, therefore, be ignored.

For a third, Israel and its leaders could be expected to behave like 'wounded tigers'. Their ploy of inveigling the U.S. into supporting their bid for supremacy in West Asia having failed –and with the U.S. President distancing himself from Mr. Netanyahu – they could be expected to embark on a fresh bout of 'adventurism', especially with their Arab neighbours and across West Asia. This could aggravate tensions and undermine the fragile peace that has existed since the Abraham Accords. Furthermore, with the U.S. seen as a major loser and its influence across the region set to wane, Gulf nations may be prompted to take a hard look at relying on the U.S. for protection against external threats, including a resurgent Iran. Interestingly, there could also be growing demands to reduce the presence of U.S. troops in West Asia.

Radical groups could regain ground

Neither Russia nor China have gained much from the conflict, even as both claim to have supported Iran and some of the other Arab countries. What the world needs to examine closely is whether this level of uncertainty could lead to the re-emergence of well-organised terrorist organisations and entities such as al Qaeda, capable of even greater destruction than their forebears. They could well become the forerunners of many more disparate Arab groups and forces centred in West Asia, capable of extending their activities from Africa and parts of Asia to Europe, if not the U.S. itself.

Building water security in a rapidly drying India

Nitin Bassi

Fellow at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Indian cities – from Bengaluru to Mussoorie (Uttarakhand) – are reeling under severe water stress. June saw a monsoon rainfall deficit of over 40%. Delhi is facing a severe shortage, and water supply has plummeted to about 70% of the total demand of 1,250 million gallons per day. Research by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) further finds that 11 out of 15 major river basins in India are experiencing water stress, with annual water availability below 1,700 m^3 per person. Several of them, including the Krishna, Cauvery, Mahi, and Tapi basins, are below the water scarcity threshold of 1,000 m^3 per person.

A recent report by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) warns of global water bankruptcy. Several river basins are polluted and closed, with no outflow to the sea. Aquifers are being depleted beyond safe limits. Nearly three-quarters of the global population lives in water-insecure countries, with four billion people facing severe water scarcity for at least one month a year.

Water infrastructure gaps

India has an uneven distribution of water resources. With 4% of the world's water resources supporting 18% of the population, historically, the country has lived and grown with water uncertainty. While schemes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana have helped develop water supply infrastructure, concerns remain regarding the poor upkeep of existing infrastructure, inadequate wastewater treatment facilities, substantial conveyance losses, high levels of water pollution, and low cost recovery.

There are four interrelated actions that can help India navigate the 'state of bankruptcy' to become water secure.

First, invest in climate-proofing water systems through granular climate risk assessments of water infrastructure and services. The CEEW's analysis of India's urban flood risk management shows that such assessments help prioritise investments in high to very high-risk locations, including coastal and low-lying areas such as Thane (Maharashtra) and Navsari (Gujarat), or areas with critical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and electricity grids, as seen in Ahmedabad. These assessments are especially important for cash-strapped urban local bodies and panchayats. Cities should leverage existing mechanisms like the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) to finance them–for instance, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) recently secured ₹1,501 crore under the UCF for water supply and drainage, part of which could support water risk assessments.

The monsoon cannot fix India's water problem; policy could

Second, enable water reuse for non-potable purposes in urban areas. Shifting from a linear to a circular approach to water use is essential to reduce pressure on freshwater resources. Used water can be treated and reused for activities such as car washing, landscaping, and cooling data centres. City-level reuse planning is key to achieving this. The Thane Municipal Corporation is adopting a scientific approach to scale up treated wastewater reuse, including for construction, to reduce its annual freshwater deficit of 53 million litres per day and generate revenue. According to CEEW analysis, the economic opportunity from the sale of treated wastewater could reach ₹3 lakh crore and generate 1,00,000 additional jobs by 2047.

Third, scale up micro-irrigation systems, including drip and sprinkler technologies that deliver water to crops more efficiently than flood irrigation. Expanding these systems beyond the current 20% coverage of India's potential 72 million hectares of irrigated area requires large-scale interventions. First, the CEEW's Gujarat research shows that micro-irrigation subsidies should be redesigned for small and marginal farmers by using 0.4 hectares instead of one hectare as the base unit. Second, farmers need support to shift to low-water, higher-value crops such as horticulture and oilseeds to recover costs, as seen in Andhra Pradesh's Rayalaseema region. Third, low-cost insurance with faster claims, including through a strengthened Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, can help smallholders manage climate and crop risks.

Close water data gaps

Finally, generate data at the river basin level to improve decision-making. India has good data on water availability, but limited data on withdrawals, losses, and consumption at the basin scale. This makes it difficult to assess actual water use, gauge efficiency gains, or allocate water judiciously – often leading one sector to gain at the expense of others, while the lack of data encourages "free riding", with users extracting as much as the source allows. Artificial Intelligence-based monitoring of water conveyance infrastructure can help detect and measure losses and also generate data. Cities such as Delhi and Bhubaneswar (Odisha) are installing smart bulk water meters to identify and reduce physical losses during distribution. Equally important is analysing end-user consumption by scaling up smart metering and using advanced water accounting tools. India's rollout of over 4.93 crore smart electricity meters can serve as a model for the water sector.

Water is an economic resource – it powers lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Reversing water bankruptcy will be the foundation of social welfare. Political will, transparent governance, and societal trust are the levers. Pull them, and India can still turn the tide toward a water-secure future.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judicial reliance on AI

It is astounding that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai, used an AI-generated case law without verifying its authenticity and delivered an order under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in a ₹200 crore credit facility case against a bank (Front page, July 3). The incident shows that the NCLTs are not fully aware of the pitfalls of using AI indiscriminately. The temptation for judicial authorities to rely on AI may be considerable, but the Supreme Court of India's advice to adopt "zero tolerance" towards reliance on AI should be scrupulously followed by all courts in the interest of the judicial system.

Kosaraju Chandramouli, Hyderabad

Meaningful advertising

It was interesting to read the column "From the Archives: Fifty Years Ago" on the necessity of conviction in advertisements. Fifty years on, despite the availability of advanced techniques and technologies, the quality of advertisements has only deteriorated, with many becoming loud, gaudy, and meaningless. There is a glaring excess instead of dignified moderation.

Balasubramaniam Pavani, Secunderabad

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "GST revenues up 14% in June amid dependence on imports" (Page 1, July 2), a sentence should have read: "Revenue from imports... grew nearly 35% in June 2026 to ₹0.6 lakh crore", and not ₹6 lakh crore.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

GROUND ZERO

CBSE directed all affiliated schools to implement the three-language formula under NEP 2020, from Class 6. The policy requires that two of the three languages be native Indian languages. Students attend school for the new academic year. G.N. RAO

Inside India's language conundrum

The CBSE's move to implement the National Education Policy 2020's three-language formula from Class 6 has caused confusion across the country. The transition has led to teacher losses, curriculum disruptions, and concerns from parents, students, and foreign embassies. **Maitri Porecha** reports on the many challenges in implementing the three-language formula in a country as diverse as India

When the summer break came to an end, 10-year-old Adya Pandey, a Class 6 student of Seth Anandram Jaipuria School in Greater Noida West, packed her bag for school. She stuffed a bunch of books inside, including her French textbook, but then, on a sudden realisation, pulled it out and tossed it on the table.

"It hasn't sunk in yet that I won't be studying French at school any more," she said.

Adya, who studies in an English-medium school, had been learning French and Hindi. She had chosen French as her third language a year ago, when she was in Class 5. In April, when the academic session of 2026-27 began, she attended French classes at school and diligently finished studying three chapters from her textbook.

However, in the same month, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) directed all affiliated schools, with altogether about 40 lakh children, to implement the three-language formula under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, from Class 6. The policy requires that two of the three languages be native Indian languages (*Bhartiya Bhasha*).

Following this, many English-medium schools, including Adya's, issued circulars in May saying they would discontinue foreign languages such as French as the third language. The CBSE also considers English a foreign language, despite it being one of the 22 official languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

In place of foreign languages, many schools decided to offer Sanskrit as the third language. A circular from Delhi Public School in Greater Noida West explained, "Because of the linguistic diversity of our learners, implementation of any other native Indian language is not logistically viable. Therefore, as a school, we have decided to offer Sanskrit as the third language."

Adya said she was shocked to receive a circular from her school asking students to stop learning German and French at school. "Around 25 of us had chosen French, 20 had opted for German, and only 15 had chosen Sanskrit. Now, all 60 of us will have to learn Sanskrit," she said.

Her mother, Monika, said that Sanskrit has become largely obsolete today. "Adya can fluently recite shlokas from Hindu scriptures such as the *Ramcharitmanas* and the *Hanuman Chalisa*. These are the values we inculcate at home, but I believe learning a foreign language will help her from a career perspective," said Monika.

> Adya can fluently recite shlokas from Hindu scriptures. These are the values we inculcate at home, but I believe learning a foreign language will help her from a career perspective.
>
> **MONIKA**
> Mother of Adya Pandey, a Class 6 CBSE student

The three-language formula proposed by the NEP, 2020, which mandates that students learn at least two native Indian languages, has departed from the previous policy of 1968, which had emphasised the study of Hindi, English, and a modern Indian language (preferably one of the southern languages) in Hindi-speaking States, and Hindi, English, and a regional language in the non-Hindi speaking States.

The hasty roll-out of the policy, and the subsequent change in rules by the government, have caused chaos in CBSE schools across the country, with parents and students struggling with curriculum shifts and shortage of teachers.

Backlash and brief respite

Bani, 12, is a Class 8 student at Delhi Public School, Vasant Kunj. She was admitted under the Economically Weaker Section quota and has been studying French for the last four years. Her father, Navraj, works as a driver, while her mother, Saraswati, takes up cooking and housekeeping jobs to help support the family.

In May, Navraj was among the many parents who moved the Supreme Court challenging another CBSE circular, issued on May 15. It stated that all Class 9 students – including those who had previously been studying foreign languages – would instead study three languages, two of which must be native to India. Until this circular was issued, Class 9 students were required to study only two languages.

Although the directive applied only to Class 9, many schools forced students in Classes 7 and 8 to drop foreign languages as well, say parents. After the Court refused to stay the CBSE circular, the hopes of students of continuing to study the foreign language of their choice were dashed.

On June 25, however, following a backlash, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan clarified that the CBSE would relax its requirement for the present students of Classes 7, 8, and 9 to switch abruptly, mid-session, from studying a foreign language to studying a native Indian one. However, Classes 7, 8, and 9 students will still have to study a third language native to India.

For instance, if a student studying in an English-medium school chose French as her second language, she would, as per the May circular, have had to drop French and learn two languages native to India. But following the clarification, she can continue learning French but will still have to study a native tongue, which can be Hindi or any other regional language.

Bani falls under this category. "I am glad I can continue learning the language I have been learning since Class 4," she said.

This indecisiveness on the part of the Ministry of Education regarding the language policy has caused confusion across schools. After the CBSE stated that Class 9 students would have to switch mid-session from foreign to native languages, many schools, such as Heritage Xperiential Learning School in Gurugram, either let go of their foreign language teachers or reassigned them to teach other subjects.

A principal from a private CBSE English-medium school in Mangaluru, Karnataka, said, "Earlier, we offered French, but after the CBSE circular in May, we let go of the French teacher. We also had an option for students to learn Konkani, but since we could not find a qualified Konkani teacher, we dropped it from the list. Now, we offer only English, Hindi, Kannada, and Sanskrit."

Around 40 lakh students study across various CBSE schools in India. SRIBHARATH G.

CBSE-affiliated schools in Puducherry had dropped French from the 2026-27 curriculum. This raised concerns over the livelihoods of French teachers in the Union Territory where French enjoys constitutional recognition.

Foreign languages impacted

According to data accessed by *The Hindu*, about 4.5 lakh students in India study French in school, while nearly 1.5 lakh learn German. In many schools, students begin learning these foreign languages as early as Classes 4, 5, or 6.

CBSE has stated that it has relaxed norms only for students in Classes 7, 8, and 9 who have already chosen a foreign language, but students in Class 6 will have to opt to learn three languages, of which two will have to be native to India. This essentially means that foreign language teaching will eventually be phased out of CBSE schools.

This decision has ruffled feathers in diplomatic circles. Sources said that the German and French embassies, which invest "significant funds" running into millions of euros in developing teaching infrastructure, preparing course materials, training teachers, and conducting language exams jointly "pushed back" against the Indian government's decision. A spokesperson of the German embassy said to *The Hindu*, "The embassy has confirmed that it is in contact with the Indian government on the issue."

The Centre's decision to reduce the role of foreign languages such as French and German in schools appears to be at odds with its broader efforts to strengthen educational and diplomatic ties with European countries.

Earlier this year, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Germany, he and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz noted the growing number of Indian students pursuing higher education in Germany and welcomed the creation of an Indo-German Comprehensive Roadmap on Higher Education, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

"Germany is an attractive market for skilled Indian labour and there is an ambitious plan in place there for the migration of skilled labour," said a source. "Learning German is important for this community. How can you fulfil their ambitions if you don't support foreign language learning?"

Anuradha Karkun, a French language trainer and teacher based in the National Capital Region, said, "Students perceive learning foreign languages like French and German useful as it also helps them gain admission in renowned universities abroad. A working knowledge of the country's language in which a student wishes to pursue higher education is favourable even if the course is being taught in English."

Karkun is also a qualified examiner for the Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF). The DELF and the DALF (Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française) are official international French language diplomas issued by the French Ministry of Education and are recognised for study, work, and immigration in French-speaking countries.

She explained that DELF certificates are in high demand among school students. According to data cited by *The Hindu*, around 11,000 candidates take the DELF examinations each year, including about 4,000 students who appear for DELF Junior, designed for school learners.

"Candidates as young as 11 years old (Class 6) prepare for DELF A1 levels," said Karkun. "By the time they are in Class 12, many progress to fairly advanced levels of B2. Early learning is made possible because they are already studying French at school. Learning a foreign language, in this case French, enables students to gain a broader intercultural world view empowering them as future ambassadors of India and global citizens."

The cost of compulsion

The NEP 2020 states that it offers greater flexibility in the three-language formula and that no language will be imposed on any State. It says that the three languages learned by students will be determined by the choices of States, regions, and the students themselves, provided that at least two of the three languages are native to India.

However, data indicate that the implementation of the three-language policy varies widely across States. According to an analysis of the share of schools based on languages taught at the primary stage (Classes 1-5), conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 2009, Hindi-speaking States largely opt for Sanskrit as the third language in school. This is the last such data available on language preferences in schools across India, as no follow-up survey was conducted by the NCERT. It is not available in the public domain and was accessed by *The Hindu* through sources.

> We respect Sanskrit as a language of immense historical and classical value. But for children of Nagaland, studying Sanskrit as their third language will not help them connect with their Angami grandmother, their Konyak grandfather, or the oral stories of their own community.
>
> **PRINCIPAL**
> CBSE school, Nagaland

This is largely why implementation of the three-language formula under the NEP, 2020, has seen intense political opposition from some States. Tamil Nadu's resistance to learning three languages dates back to the pre-Independence era. The 1968 draft of the NEP proposed that regions in southern India learn a north Indian language, and vice versa, in order to foster "national integration"; however, Tamil Nadu rejected this position and excluded the proposed introduction of Hindi from its curriculum. Six decades later, little has changed. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay has said that students in the State will learn only two languages, with Tamil and English being the primary choices.

Anita Rampal, who was Professor and Dean at the Faculty of Education, Delhi University, said Tamil Nadu's two-language formula is not, as is often assumed, Tamil and English, but rather the mother tongue and English. "It is important to note that even after the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act, 2006, and the Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Rules, 2012, minority-language schools, such as Urdu schools, are exempted from learning Tamil," she explained.

Even States such as Kerala, which have generally supported the three-language formula, are now facing uncertainty over the latest CBSE decision. Many elite and private CBSE schools in Kerala previously allowed students to opt for popular foreign languages such as French, German, or Arabic – sometimes in place of Hindi or Malayalam – given the State's strong links with the Gulf region. This will no longer be possible in the coming years as the CBSE is set to implement the revised three-language framework prospectively from Class 6 in the 2026-27 academic year, eventually extending it to Class 10 by 2030-31.

For State Board schools, Telangana has typically followed the three-language policy, with an emphasis on the mandatory learning of Telugu. Alongside Telugu, students can choose any two languages from English, Hindi, and Urdu.

However, policies that mandate language instruction often face resistance, and the Telangana (Compulsory Teaching and Learning of Telugu in Schools) Act, 2018, is no exception.

"We were unable to fully implement the policy, especially due to resistance from students and schools affiliated to central and international boards, since its enactment in 2018," said a senior official in the Telangana School Education Department. The latest CBSE directive on the mandatory three-language policy for Class 6 has now paved the way for the State government to fully implement the aforementioned Act.

The infrastructure hurdle

Mostly, challenges in implementing the three-language formula arise from a lack of adequately trained teachers and the unavailability of learning material across regional languages.

According to the Unified District Information System for Education 2023-24, the government's primary management information system for school education, 61.6% schools across India teach three languages. The rest (38.4%) teach either one or two languages.

The State Board in Uttar Pradesh, for instance, had expressed interest in introducing the three-language formula for students from Class 9 onwards last year. However, officials told *The Hindu* that the policy has not been implemented in the academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27. In the case of south Indian languages, State Education Department officials said there are very few available teachers. "We had 17 students of Kannada, 10 students of Tamil, and 133 students of Telugu registered with us in the academic year 2025-26. These students appeared as private candidates and prepared on their own for language exams," said Bhagwati Singh, Secretary, Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad, the State Board of U.P. entrusted to conduct exams for Classes 10 and 12.

Nagaland in the north-east, which has a distinct socio-linguistic context, has also expressed resistance to the three-language formula. This is partly because the State and Centre have yet to provide adequate learning infrastructure for classrooms comprising children from over 30 different linguistic backgrounds.

"Naga students find it difficult to follow Hindi," said a principal of a CBSE school in Nagaland. "Schools in Nagaland seeking a workable path within the current policy framework are facing a difficult dilemma and are converging on a troubling default – Sanskrit. We respect Sanskrit as a language of immense historical and classical value. But we must be candid: for children of Nagaland, studying Sanskrit as their third language will not help them connect with their Angami grandmother, their Konyak grandfather, or the oral stories of their own community."

With inputs from B. Pradeep in Hyderabad, Mayank Kumar in Uttar Pradesh, and Rashmi Patil in Mangaluru

From Page One

Centre opens power bids to 4 China-linked firms

TBEA Energy India is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the Chinese company TBEA Group, while Nanjing Electric India is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Chinese power equipment manufacturer Nanjing Electric.

New Northeast Electric India has technology transfer ties with Chinese power sector companies, and Taikai Electric (India) is a subsidiary of the China-headquartered Taikai Group.

Earlier relaxations

This order also builds on other partial relaxations the government has recently offered to companies that have investments from China and other countries that share a land border with India.

In May, the Finance Ministry had notified new rules to allow overseas companies with Chinese shareholding of up to 10% to invest in India under the automatic route, rather than first having to obtain government approval.

This was a relaxation made to the 'Press Note 3' that the Indian government had issued in 2020, ostensibly to prevent opportunistic takeovers and acquisitions of distressed Indian companies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8 held in Gujarat, M.P over 'links' with JeM

The officer alleged that the accused were planning terror attacks in Gujarat and other parts of the country.

They were also involved in recruiting members, propagating the organisation's extremist ideology, and creating a support network to carry out both ongoing and future plans, he said.

Investigators said that to execute terrorist acts on behalf of the Jaish in Gujarat, the group received ₹3 lakh, which they used to buy an old car. They were also instructed to arrange a safe hideout by renting a small house.

Another officer said that they functioned as a close-knit group and carried out activities in coordination.

Logistics support

"Their primary role was to provide logistical support and shelter to operational teams whenever directed by their handlers," he said.

Asked about the source of their alleged radicalisation, the officer said it was a gradual process involving multiple people. "Social media and YouTube also played a significant role. All of them had received madrasa education, and they reached a stage where extremist radicalisation overtook religious teachings," the officer alleged.

The accused translated radical literature, including books authored by Jaish founder Masood Azhar, into Gujarati to facilitate its wider circulation in the State, officials said.

Three of the accused were associated with religious seminaries in Siddhapur and Chikhli. "We are probing how they got funds, their contacts, and other conspiracy," they added.

Online platforms

In April, the ATS had apprehended two men for allegedly conspiring to carry out activities prejudicial to national security and for attempting to radicalise youth through online platforms. According to investigators, the duo was allegedly working to build a terror network, promote the ideology of "Ghazwa-e-Hind", and explore the use of explosive materials, including RDX.

Officials claimed that they had identified potential targets, including political figures associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and were attempting to recruit young people through social media. The ATS said it had been closely monitoring suspicious online activity.

DMK MLA arrested over remarks on T.N. CM

After the arrest, Mr. Radhakrishnan was taken to the office of the District Superintendent of Police in Thoothukudi for further investigation.

After nearly five-and-a-half hours of inquiry, he was brought out of the SP office at around 6:15 p.m. and taken to Thoothukudi Government Medical College and Hospital (TKGMCH) for a medical examination. Speaking to the reporters before leaving for the hospital, Mr. Radhakrishnan said he would remain firmly committed to the DMK.

"Whatever the circumstances, I will remain steadfast in the DMK and continue to follow the path of my leader," he said.

Stalin condemns arrest

DMK president and former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin condemned the arrest and said, "What was the urgent need to hastily arrest someone who was carrying out public work and conducting inspections in his constituency? The Chief Minister is running a police raj in a cinema-action style."

He asked why the government had not shown the same urgency in acting on a complaint filed by a "gang rape survivor" against the Srivaikuntam TVK MLA. Accusing the government of failing to prevent murders, robberies, and sexual offences against women across the State, Mr. Stalin asked, "If arrests are to be made in defamation cases, how many of today's Ministers would have to be arrested for the remarks they make?"

DMK Member of Parliament Kanimozhi condemned the arrest and said, "The DMK will never bow down to such oppression."

Ladakh to have customised self-governance framework

UT-level elected body will be established, say minutes of meeting between Centre and leaders of civil society groups; model of constitutional safeguards under Article 371 discussed in proposal

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A customised *sui generis* model, which is most suitable for Ladakh, will be adopted under the provisions of Article 371 for the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh, said the draft shared by a team from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) with leaders of civil society groups of the region on Friday.

Referring to the fifth meeting held on May 22 this year of the sub-committee of the High-Powered Committee (HPC) on Ladakh, the MHA team released the minutes of the meeting agreed upon by the Centre and the leaders of civil society groups of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).

The MHA note said the next logical step would be to further empower the UT through a democratic institutional framework that provided a political voice. It was unanimously decided that while Statehood would remain the long-term aspiration of Ladakh, in the present situation, as a first step, an appropriate customised model of governance, that is, a UT-level elected body would be established. A draft proposal covering the powers and functions – executive, financial and legislative –of this UT-level elected body in harmonious relations with the Panchayati Raj Institutions would be prepared for further discussion and fine-tuning.

Civil society groups in Ladakh have been consistently demanding Statehood for the Union Territory. FILE PHOTO

The minutes of the meeting said the model of constitutional safeguards with Article 371 was also discussed. "There have been instances of invoking Article 371(A to J) and it was agreed that a customised model which is most suitable for Ladakh would be adopted," it said.

Demand for Statehood

It is the first time that the MHA has made public a detailed presentation on the progress achieved through five rounds of meetings between the Centre and representatives of Ladakh. "The presentation also outlined the probable structure of self-governance in Ladakh. The representatives from Ladakh reiterated the demand for Statehood and Sixth schedule for Ladakh. They also reiterated the demand regarding Ladakh Administrative and Police Service and regarding withdrawal of cases of 24, September 2025 incident," reads the minutes of the meeting.

India-Japan relations should not target third party: China

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

On July 2, India and Japan unveiled a raft of landmark initiatives, including an economic partnership framework

China said on Friday that bilateral cooperation between countries should not target any third party or undermine the interests of another nation, a day after India and Japan unveiled a raft of landmark initiatives during Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to Delhi. "Cooperation between countries should be conducive to enhancing the understanding and trust among regional countries and safeguarding peace and stability in the region," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told the media in Beijing.

He was replying to a question on cooperation between India and Japan on critical minerals to boost resilience in supply chains after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Japanese premier. "Such cooperation should not target any third party or harm the interests of any third party," Mr. Guo said. "It is the responsibility of all countries to keep the global industrial and supply chains safe and stable. All parties should champion openness and cooperation and play a constructive role in the process," he added.

On July 2, India and Japan unveiled a raft of landmark initiatives, including an economic partnership framework. They also expressed "serious concern" at the situation in the East China Sea and South China Sea, and opposed unilateral actions that endanger freedom of navigation as well as attempts to change the status quo by force, as per a joint statement.

India will consider 'all related developments' to Teesta project, says MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visited China where the two sides discussed the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMRP), India on Friday said its development assistance to projects in Bangladesh work on the basis of a "mutually agreed roadmap", and that India will consider "all related developments" in formulating an "overall approach" to the Teesta river-related project.

The issue came up during a press briefing when the official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry, Randhir Jaiswal, was asked a question on whether the Bangladesh-China decision to have a feasibility report on the TRCMRP will impact India's projects in Bangladesh. "India's development assistance for projects in Bangladesh is based on a mutually agreed road map, which is regularly reviewed. Our views on the Teesta river project have been previously conveyed to the Bangladesh side. We will factor all related developments in our overall approach to the Teesta issue," said Mr. Jaiswal.

Pristine waters: A view of the Teesta river at Sevok, some 20 km from Siliguri. AFP

Officials later clarified that India's statement did not indicate any displeasure at Bangladesh's decision to go ahead with discussing the Teesta project with China as India-Bangladesh ties stand on their own merit.

The sharing of the Teesta river water has been under discussion between India and Bangladesh for decades but since 2011, the two neighbours have remained in a deadlock with regards to an agreement.

Judge facing threats over lynching verdict needs protection: HC

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the State police to provide protection to judge Tabassum Khan who is facing threats after sentencing seven cow vigilantes to life term in a mob lynching case. Taking *suo motu* cognisance of reports on July 1, a Division Bench of Justices Vivek Agarwal and Avanindra Kumar Singh said such threats "directly hamper the judicial independence and fearless working of our judicial officers".

Issued notices

Ms. Khan, an Additional Sessions Judge in Narmadapuram district, has faced online abuse and threats after her June 12 judgment in which she convicted a group of cow vigilantes and awarded them life imprisonment for beating to death a truck driver, Sheikh Lala Nazir Ahmed, on suspicion of cow smuggling in 2022.

The High Court issued notices to the Director-General of Police (DGP) and the Additional Chief Secretary or the Principal Secretary (Home), asking them to file their responses within three days. "It has been brought to our notice by the learned counsel for the High Court as well as through media reports that one of the Judicial Officers at Narmadapuram has been subjected to constant threats by certain members of society for passing an order against one of the stakeholders. This is a serious matter," the Bench said, while asking the police and government authorities what steps are being taken to book the "miscreants, who have created an atmosphere of fear for our judicial officer at Narmadapuram".

The Narmadapuram police have already lodged an FIR in the case.

Jairam Ramesh

Cong. accuses Modi govt. of 'calibrated capitulation' to China

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday alleged that the Union government's "calibrated capitulation" to China is continuing even as India's trade deficit with that country reaches record levels "destroying large sections of industry".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared a media report on X which said that India had allowed four Chinese power equipment manufacturers with factories in the country to participate in government tenders for critical power projects.

In his post, Mr. Ramesh said, "The Modi Government's calibrated capitulation to China continues even as India's trade deficit with that country reaches record levels destroying large sections of our industry specially MSMEs." China's provocative actions in relation to Arunachal Pradesh are unabated, he said.

"The world's largest hydroelectric project in Medog continues, imperilling India's water security in relation to the Brahmaputra. India's traditional patrolling and herding rights in many places in Eastern Ladakh have been given up," Mr. Ramesh said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi "infamously gave a public clean chit" to China on June 19, 2020 even after 20 of India's armed forces personnel were martyred in Ladakh, he said. China's pivotal role in Pakistan's actions during Operation Sindoor were acknowledged by the Deputy Chief of Army Staff and are documented, the Congress leader said, adding, "And yet, the 'capitulation' to China continues apace".

DAC gives approval for military purchase worth ₹52,000 crore

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Friday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for defence acquisition proposals worth nearly ₹52,000 crore aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The Ministry of Defence stated that the DAC approved the procurement of Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Electronic Warfare System Akash Tarang, Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) systems, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) weapon systems, Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (V-SHORADS), Active Protection Systems for tanks and jet-based Kamikaze drone systems, for the Indian Army.

Akash Tarang is designed to provide effective protection against hostile drones, while the MPATGM will strengthen the infantry's capability to counter enemy armoured formations. The MRSAM system will enhance medium-range air defence against a range of aerial threats. The Kamikaze drone system will provide enhanced electronic warfare capability with greater lethality and cost-effectiveness.

For the Indian Navy, the Council approved the acquisition of Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM), Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems (NSUAS) and the establishment of a Land Based Testing Facility (LBTF) for Electric Propulsion Systems, it added.

The DAC also approved the procurement of Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (FW-HAPS) and other proposals for the Indian Air Force. The FW-HAPS platform will be enhancing the Air Force's operational reach.

'No revival of Indus treaty if Pak. does not end terror'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Friday said the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will remain in "abeyance" till Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" stops supporting cross-border terrorism. Official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry Randhir Jaiswal made the remark in the context of a recent international conference held in Pakistan where it called for the restoration of the treaty. The country is dealing with a severe heatwave. "The Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross border terrorism," said Mr. Jaiswal at a media briefing.

Earlier this week, Pakistan organised a conference on the Indus and water sharing where the country's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar referred to the IWT as vital for "regional peace, stability and cooperation".

Point of contention: India's Cabinet Committee on Security had put the IWT in abeyance after the Pahalgam attack. PTI

The Cabinet Committee on Security had put the treaty in abeyance a day after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, killed 26 civilians and injured dozens. The attack led to India's strikes on terror targets inside Pakistan under Operation Sindoor.

"The IWT was concluded in the spirit of goodwill and friendship as specified in the preamble of the treaty. However, Pakistan has held these principles in abeyance by its promotion of cross-border terrorism for decades," Mr. Jaiswal had said on May 13, 2025.

On May 22 last year, Mr. Jaiswal had said that India was willing to discuss with Pakistan the modality to get custody of "noted terrorists whose list was provided to Pakistan some years ago". Citing PM Narendra Modi's remarks, he said, "Water and blood cannot flow together". India has intensified the rhetoric on Pakistan recently, especially against the backdrop of protests in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Democracy is in jeopardy, INDIA bloc writes to CJI

Opposition leaders express concern over SIR in Bengal and Bihar, allege manipulation of polls in Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra; the EC's independence has eroded in recent years, they say in letter

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties raised concerns over the brazenly biased conduct of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Alleging manipulation of elections, partisan conduct by the Election Commission (EC), and the misuse of Central investigation agencies against Opposition parties, leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, in a joint memorandum addressed to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, said they were taking the unusual step of reaching out to the CJI because they believed that "democracy is in jeopardy".

'Manipulated elections'

The June 28 letter was released to the media by the Opposition on Friday. Signed by leaders of 23 Opposition parties and Independent MP Kapil Sibal, it detailed concerns over the special intensive revision (SIR) in West Bengal and Bihar. The leaders alleged that the recent elections in Delhi, Haryana, and Maharashtra had been "manipulated". The leaders said they were approaching the court because they believed democratic institutions were under strain and that electoral outcomes in several instances did not accurately reflect the will of the people.

Delineating the EC's conduct from 2014, the Opposition parties said there were hardly any instances, barring a few exceptions, when questions were raised about the integrity of persons in the commission before 2014. "But since 2014, almost every appointment made by the government has been of persons closely associated with it and seen to be doing the bidding of the government, brazenly, to manipulate the outcome of election results," the letter said.

The Opposition leaders alleged that the Election Commission's independence had eroded in recent years. Referring to the Supreme Court's judgment in the *Anoop Baranwal* case, they argued that judicial concerns about the process of appointing Election Commissioners remained relevant. The letter criticised changes made through subsequent legislation, which removed the Chief Justice of India from the committee responsible for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's "brazenly biased conduct", coupled with his "open, unabashed support of the BJP during the course of and in the outcome of electoral processes", was a matter of grave concern, the Opposition said in its letter. They accused the EC of not being "even-handed" in the application of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) ahead of elections, "by choosing not to take action when the MCC is breached by the political party in power – all this while targeting those in the Opposition".

The parties questioned the rationale behind conducting the SIR. The political rhetoric surrounding the exercise, the Opposition claimed, centred on the alleged infiltration of Bangladeshis into the Bihar electoral rolls. "Now that the Bihar Assembly elections are over, there is absolutely no data to suggest that such an infiltration indeed took place, nor has the Election Commission made public any data with respect to the number of Bangladeshis having illegally acquired the right to vote in India," the letter noted.

The situation became worse in West Bengal, where, the Opposition said, the government was under siege with the presence of 2.4 lakh CAPF personnel. "To put this in context, 3.5 lakh CAPF personnel were deployed for the entire Lok Sabha election in 2024," the letter pointed out. It also complained of the arbitrary removal of voters under a "never used before category" of logical discrepancies.

"We believe that recently conducted elections in Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra were also manipulated," the letter said.

Suspension of SIR

The Opposition has demanded the immediate suspension of the SIR, arguing that such a comprehensive overhaul of the electoral rolls should be undertaken only when the next Assembly election is at least five years away.

"Judges do not live in ivory towers. You too are aware of what is happening on the ground. The legacy media is largely compromised, but there are many independent platforms that are still speaking truth to power," the letter said. At the same time, the Opposition maintained that it was not questioning the judiciary.

BJP terms the letter a 'dangerous conspiracy'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday targeted the Congress and its allies, alleging a "dangerous conspiracy to malign Indian democracy" through attempts to delegitimise democratic processes and constitutional institutions, particularly the Election Commission.

Reacting sharply to a letter written by 23 Opposition parties to the Chief Justice of India, alleging "biased" conduct by the Election Commission and questioning the special intensive revision (SIR) process, BJP MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi described the move as an "attack on democracy".

"The language and tone used in the letter are reminiscent of the arrogant attitude witnessed during the Emergency," said Mr. Trivedi.

He said the SIR process had already been held to be completely reasonable and lawful by various courts. "From the constitutional point of view, they have failed to place any factual matter before the court," he said.

"Is it not true that senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor remarked on a television programme that the Congress benefited from SIR in Kerala? In Karnataka, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is directing his party workers to participate actively in the SIR process, while you cast aspersions on the very same process," claimed the BJP leader.

Ram Temple 'theft' has hurt sentiment of Hindus, says RSS

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Dattatreya Hosabale

In its first official reaction to the Ayodhya Ram Temple embezzlement controversy, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Friday appealed to Hindus to "remain united", and urged the authorities to ensure strict punishment for those found guilty. It cautioned against "conspiracies (by) anti-Hindu, anti-national forces" to exploit the incident and "malign Hinduism and society".

In a video statement, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said the temple, built after the "struggles of generations" and the "sacrifices" of crores of Ram devotees, had become a centre of reverence and faith for the Hindu community.

Calling the alleged theft from the temple's donation boxes "unfortunate", Mr. Hosabale said the incident had hurt the sentiments of devotees and the wider Hindu society.

Referring to the steps taken by the Uttar Pradesh government, he said a special investigation team (SIT) had been constituted at the request of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and that legal proceedings had been initiated based on its recommendations. He said those found guilty in the investigation should face strict punishment.

The RSS said the incident should be treated as an "exceptional case", and called for comprehensive measures to address deficiencies in the temple's administrative and operational systems.

It said the confusion surrounding the matter should be brought to an end through corrective action by the temple management and the SIT.

The organisation expressed confidence that transparent financial management, efficient operations and systems ensuring accountability would help reinforce public confidence in the Trust and preserve the faith of devotees.

'Insult to injury'

Reacting to the RSS statement, Congress leader Pawan Khera said, "The loot of Ram Mandir funds has deeply hurt the faith of Hindus across the country. But what adds insult to this injury is the RSS's sudden outrage over the alleged theft of Ram Mandir donations. The truth is that if the RSS were sincerely committed to safeguarding devotees' donations, embezzlement on such a scale would never have taken place at a temple that is directly under its watch."

SIT likely to re-audit past accounts of Temple Trust

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is likely to conduct a repeat audit of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust's accounts for the past five years, government sources said on Friday. This comes after the preliminary investigation hinted at large-scale anomalies and irregularities.

The re-audit is likely to cover construction-related expenditure as well as the jewellery, gold, and silver items received as donations. The SIT team will also carry out a detailed scrutiny of the Trust's financial records over the entire five-year period.

The SIT – comprising Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Inspector General (Lucknow Range) Kiran S., and Special Secretary in the State Finance Department Neelratan Kumar – reached the Ram Temple on Friday and spoke with multiple people.

Suspect questioned

Meanwhile, the Ayodhya police interrogated key suspect Avinash Shukla, who was part of the donation-counting process at the temple, and had previously been arrested in connection with the case. A local court remanded him in police custody for 24 hours on Thursday. He is among eight accused who have been arrested in the case so far.

Fresh turbulence in Punjab Congress as Channi holds show of strength, Randhawa meets Shah

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi with Punjab Congress Legislature Party leader Partap Singh Bajwa. FILE PHOTO

The revamp of the Punjab Congress has triggered fresh turbulence in the State unit, with former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Friday convening a meeting of party leaders and supporters to press the high command to appoint him president of the Punjab Congress Committee (PCC).

Mr. Channi, the Lok Sabha member from Jalandhar and a Dalit, met his loyalists at his residence in Morinda, about 30 km from Chandigarh.

In Delhi, senior Congress leader and Gurdaspur Lok Sabha member Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa's meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah only added to the sense of turmoil within the State unit, though he maintained that the interaction was solely to discuss Punjab's deteriorating law and order situation.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC), while announcing several election-related committees for Punjab on Wednesday, appointed Mr. Channi as the chairperson of the Campaign Committee but retained Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as PCC president.

The decision, sources said, had upset Mr. Channi, and Friday's meeting was intended to convey his displeasure to the party leadership.

"We have no issues with the high command, but we do have some objections. We want the leadership to hear our grievances and resolve them so that the Congress party comes to power," Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa, MLA, told presspersons.

Sharing a video of Mr. Bajwa's remarks on X, Mr. Channi posted, "Congress party leadership called on me at my residence and urged me to present the sentiments and aspirations of the people of Punjab before the high command."

Among those present at the meeting were former Deputy Chief Minister O.P. Soni, former Ministers Bharat Bhushan Ashu and Gurpreet Singh Kangar, former MP Mohd. Sadiq, and former MLAs Nazar Singh Manshahia, Gurkirat Singh Kotli, Lakhvir Singh Lakha, Darshan Singh Brar and Tarsem Singh.

Mr. Randhawa, who has been appointed chairperson of the Core Committee in Punjab, said his meeting with the Home Minister was a follow-up to a letter he had written to the Prime Minister on law and order issues, including the predominance of gangsters, extortion and narco-terrorism.

Discontent brews

The senior Congress leader, however, acknowledged a sense of disquiet within the party and said only AICC observer Ajay Maken could explain the basis of the report he had submitted to the high command on the changes to be made in the State unit.

"It certainly hurts when all this is happening after a list comes out... and I don't know what it means," Mr. Randhawa said. "The situation is not as bad as you think. But it is a matter to ponder that it should not have come to this...," he added.

Ritabrata-led camp 'takes control' of Trinamool headquarters amid tussle

Shiv Sahay Singh
Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

A banner of the rebel faction of Trinamool Congress displayed outside the party headquarters in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

The tussle between the rival camps of the Trinamool Congress on Friday manifested on the streets of Kolkata when a faction led by the Leader of the Opposition, Ritabrata Banerjee, occupied and locked the party headquarters located next to the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass.

Accompanied by a group of MLAs, including Firhad Hakim, Sandipan Saha, Javed Khan, Akhruzzaman, Mr. Ritabrata went to the party headquarters. "We are the real Trinamool. This is our office. Trinamool's emotions are associated with this office," he said. He added that he had a discussion with the owner on rent-related issues.

On receiving information that the Ritabrata camp was trying to occupy the party office, leaders loyal to former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee – MLA Kunal Ghosh and Baishwnar Chatterjee – arrived at the office to stake claim.

Mr. Chatterjee told presspersons that they had a rent agreement till October 2027 and the party office belonged to them. "There is no party without Mamata Banerjee and it is her office. I don't know at whose behest they (the rival faction) are doing this. We will fight it in accordance with law," he said.

Abhishek faces fresh FIR over 'illegal use of equipment'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

A fresh case has been registered against Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee over the alleged illegal use of diagnostic equipment during Sebaashray health camps.

The FIR has been registered on the basis of a complaint by Sukdeb Das, a resident of Raynagar. Sebaashray, a community health initiative launched by Mr. Banerjee for his Diamond Harbour constituency, drew large crowds during the Trinamool regime.

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)
Pandit Deendayal Upadhayay Paryatan Bhawan, Near O.N.G.C. Helipad, Nimbuwala, Garhi Cantt, Derhadun - 248003 (UK)
Ph. 0135-2559898, Fax 135-2559988

Ref. No. 1987/2-7-1035/2026-27 Dated: 03 July, 2026

SELECTION OF A TRAINING AGENCY FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION,WILDERNESS MEDICINE & GUIDE CAPACITY BUILDING

Details may be obtained on website: uktenders.gov.in from 3:00 PM on 04.07.2026. **Pre-bid meeting will be held at 12:30 PM on 13.07.2026.** Prospective Bidders may seek clarification till 3:00 PM on 08.07.2026 through E-mail: **adventurewingutdb@gmail.com** with CC to **procurement.utdb@gmail.com.** Any Addendum / Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded on **uktenders.gov.in.** Proposals must be submitted online through **uktenders.gov.in** only. The last date for submission of proposals is **27.07.2026 till 3:00 PM.**

Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokaseva Bhavan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001
Phone: 0674-2390154 | Website: https://dhe.odisha.gov.in | Mail: sectionithed@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-III

The tender for the development of 83 digital application modules was published on the Department's official website and in two leading newspapers each in Odia and English on 04.06.2026. Subsequently, the last date for submission of bid documents was extended up to 03.07.2026 vide Department Letter No. 34572/HE, dated 25.06.2026. It is hereby notified that **the last date and time for submission of bid documents is further extended up to 07.07.2026, 5 PM.** Tenders received after the stipulated date and time shall not be entertained.

For more details like corrigendum, clarification etc. concerning to the bidding, visit our official website **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in**.

NOTE - The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Bids must be sent via speed/Registered Post/Courier to :

Additional Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001 Or by **E-mail : sectionithed@gmail.com**

11001/188/2627 OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0021

DIRECTORATE OF TEXTILES & HANDLOOM, ODISHA
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
AT/PO- SATYANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 751007
Phone No. 0674- 2575783 ; Email- textiles.odisha@gov.in
No. 4892 / Dated the 02/07/2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

"FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED SILK SPINNING UNIT UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) MODE ON DESIGN, BUILT, FINANCE, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (DBFOT) BASIS"

The Directorate of Textiles & Handloom, Odisha under the Handloom, Textiles, and Handicrafts Department, Government of Odisha invites proposals from prospective applicant (s) for Expression of Interest for selection of a Bidder for Development of an Integrated Silk Spinning Unit under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode on Design, Built, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis in accordance with the conditions and manner prescribed in the EOI document.

The proposals should be submitted by the interested parties to the Director of Textiles, Directorate of Textiles & Handlooms, Odisha at Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha **on or before 05.08.2026 upto 05:00 PM.** The detailed EOI may be downloaded from the e-tender portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app**, Handlooms, Textiles &Handicrafts Department website: **https://handloom.odisha.gov.in** and Directorate website : **http://textiles.odisha.gov.in**

Further details about the project and submissions are available in the EoI document. Interested firms are requested to download the EoI document from the e-Procurement portal of Government of Odisha **https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app.** The last date for submission of EoI by interested firms is **05.08.2026 upto 05:00 PM.**

For further information, please contact http://textiles.odisha.gov.in or call at +91 9937267419

31001/48/2627 OIPR-31001/31003/1/26-27/0006

INBRIEF

SC refuses to stay bail granted to Sonam in murder case

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the bail granted to Sonam Raghuvanshi, who was arrested in connection with the May 23 murder of her newly wed husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, during their honeymoon in Meghalaya. While the court acknowledged that the allegations against Ms. Raghuvanshi were "quite serious", it declined to send her back to judicial custody after being informed that she had already been released. Reiterating the settled principle of criminal jurisprudence, the judges observed, "We are conscious that, howsoever grave the alleged offence is, there is a presumption of innocence."

HC asks Centre to decide on plea against YouTube video

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Centre's Grievance Appellate Committee to decide within 15 days an appeal seeking the removal of a video by YouTuber Dhruv Rathee. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma passed the direction while hearing a petition by advocate Amita Sachdeva, who said statements made in the video were "patently false, misleading and deliberately distorted" and capable of promoting communal disharmony. Additional Solicitor-General Chetan Sharma said either YouTube should remove the video or the court should pass appropriate directions for its takedown.

ED to share foreign funds probe findings with the CBI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has decided to share its findings with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further legal action in the case of routing foreign funds into India, including in areas affected by left-wing extremism, through foreign debit cards allegedly linked to the U.S.-based The Timothy Initiative (TTI), according to agency officials.

The ED has alleged that at least ₹92.55 crore was used in India in violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) provisions.

Based on its complaints, an FIR was registered at the Dhamtari police station in Chhattisgarh on May 11, and another at the Kothanpur police station in Karnataka's Bengaluru city on June 11.

Initially, a Suspicious Transaction Report generated by the Financial Intelligence Unit-India flagged the modus operandi of routing funds through bank debit cards issued by Truist Bank, U.S., "bypassing prescribed banking and regulatory channels".

Centre set to summon Meta over child sexual abuse advertisements

A media report had pointed to proliferation of such ads on the Instagram platform; the company says it has a 'zero-tolerance' policy towards CSAM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is set to summon Meta over a recent report about the proliferation of advertisements for child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on Instagram.

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw directed "Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) officials to summon Meta on the matter of Instagram ads promoting child sexual abuse material in India", an official said.

Separately, Meta officials also met with IT Ministry officials to discuss the username feature on WhatsApp, which the latter are worried could lead to an increase in fraud on the messaging platform.

On the summons, a Meta spokesperson told *The Hindu* that it had a "zero tolerance" policy towards CSAM.

"We use advanced AI technology to proactively

Ashwini Vaishnaw

detect violating content and individuals, but we are in a constant battle with criminals who hide among our 3.5 billion users and try to evade our detection," the spokesperson said.

"That is why our expert teams are constantly working to improve our defences, develop new technology to root out predators, block links to violating websites, and share intelligence with other companies so they can take action too."

CSAM is illegal, and Meta policies also forbid pornographic content featuring adults. Yet, during a test phase, a *BBC* report noted that the broadcaster was shown over two dozen ads promoting CSAM, with links to Telegram channels.

The IT Ministry will "seek explanation" from Meta regarding the issue.

WhatsApp issue

On the WhatsApp username issue, Meta has said that it would only roll it out in the coming months and that it would notify users of the country of origin of the people who message someone for the first time without exposing their phone number. IT Secretary S. Krishnan said on the sidelines of an industry event that WhatsApp would be asked to explain the feature in more detail in writing. The deadline for a written response is Saturday.

The IT Ministry has argued that the feature could lead to impersonation and scams, while protecting scammers' phone numbers, making it harder to trace them.

Protest against govt. cannot be ground for externment, says HC

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday quashed an externment order passed against Saeed Ahmad Abdul Wahid Chaudhary, the general secretary of the Socialist Democratic Party of India (SDPI), stating that opposition to government decisions does not constitute grounds for externment under the Maharashtra Police Act.

The court held that protesting against Union government decisions and raising slogans does not constitute grounds for externment and that such action affects the fundamental rights under Articles 19 and 21. Justice Madhav Jamdar, while hearing the petition, observed that the Mumbai Police had passed the externment order based on five FIRs lodged against Mr. Chaudhary for organising protests against the Union government's decisions, including on the Gyanvapi Masjid controversy and on amendments to the Citizenship Act.

The externment order was initially passed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police on December 3, 2025, and confirmed by the Divisional Commissioner, Konkan Division, on March 27, 2026, externing Mr. Chaudhary for a period of one year.

Fundamental rights

Justice Jamdar remarked that police officers are not servants of the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister. The court indicated that the action taken against the petitioner appeared to be *malafide* in nature. The court further noted that citizens have the right to express their opinions and live with dignity under Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution. The judge stated that the externment order for opposing government decisions affected these fundamental rights.

During the proceedings, Justice Jamdar made observations regarding the political situation in Maharashtra, noting instances of MPs and MLAs switching parties. The judge remarked on the political developments in the State, including discussions in the State Assembly regarding the election of the Presiding Officer. Justice Jamdar recorded that the petitioner's Morchas and Dharnas against certain decisions by the Government of India could not be grounds for externment.

Three more arrested in Maharashtra TET leak case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Maharashtra Police made three more arrests in the Teacher Eligibility Test paper leak scam on Thursday. The accused were arrested from Pathankot in Punjab and Samastipur in Bihar.

The accused have been remanded in police custody till July 9. This has taken the total number of arrests in the case to seven. But the alleged mastermind is still on the run.

Kapil Dahiya was nabbed in Pathankot. He was one of the four men who had arrived in Mumbai to sell the TET leaked paper. The police also arrested Mithunkumar Sublal Singh, a resident of Samastipur in Bihar, who had gone to Pune to sell papers and assist in providing answers.

Over 12,000 pilgrims visit cave shrine on the first day of Amarnath Yatra

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

More than 12,000 pilgrims paid obeisance to the naturally formed ice *Shivling* at the Amarnath cave shrine on the opening day of the 57-day annual pilgrimage on Friday, officials said.

The pilgrims included about 9,350 men, 2,250 women, over 200 children, 70 sadhus, nine transgender devotees, and more than 260 security personnel, they said.

Earlier in the day, pilgrims began the trek from the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam and the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal, even as inclement weather played spoilsport in the morning.

Path to devotion : Pilgrims trek to the Amarnath cave shrine using the Baltal route on Friday. IMRAN NISSAR

'Symbol of cleanliness'

On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a two-page letter, wished devotees undertaking the pilgrimage. He urged them to make the journey a symbol of cleanliness, safety, environmental protection, and support for local livelihoods and nation-building.

He asked pilgrims to maintain cleanliness, hygiene and ensure that the route is clean. "The Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir as a reflection of India's rich spiritual and cultural heritage. Devotees across the country eagerly await the opportunity to undertake the pilgrimage every year. It embodies the spirit of unity in diversity by bringing together devotees from different parts of the country," said Mr. Modi.

'Efficiency, dedication'

Mr. Modi praised the efforts of the Amarnath Shrine Board, the Jammu & Kashmir administration, and security agencies for ensuring the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

"For several decades, this pilgrimage has been managed with great efficiency and dedication," Mr. Modi said, while referring to the role of the Indian Army, CRPF, Jammu & Kashmir Police, ITBP, BSF, NDRF, doctors, healthcare workers, sanitation staff, administrative officials and volunteers involved in facilitating the pilgrimage.

The Prime Minister said thousands of personnel fulfilled their responsibilities with commitment. He underlined the role of local communities and said the pilgrimage reflected the hospitality of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, while referring to pony operators, porters and palanquin bearers. "Their service on the difficult mountain route exemplifies India's long-standing tradition of selfless service," he added.

(With inputs from PTI)

Govt. can acquire religious sites for public projects: HC

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday held that the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, protects the religious character of places of worship but does not prohibit the State from acquiring such properties for a genuine public purpose, such as road widening or infrastructure development.

The observation was made by a Division Bench of Justice J.J. Munir and Justice Arun Kumar while dismissing a petition filed by six shopkeepers from Varanasi's Dalmandi area challenging the proposed road-widening project linked to the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. The petitioners alleged that the project would lead to the demolition of their shops.

The petitioners had also sought a direction restraining the State from acquiring six mosques in the Dalmandi area – Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, Masjid Rangile Shah, Masjid Ali Raza Khan, Masjid Karimullah Baig, Masjid Nisaran and Masjid Sangamarmar – as they claimed those mosques had existed before August 15, 1947.

They argued that any acquisition of these mosques would violate the Places of Worship Act. Rejecting the contention, the court held that the 1991 law was enacted to maintain the religious character of places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947 and does not restrict the State's power to acquire land for a legitimate public purpose.

"Act of 1991 prohibits the conversion of place of worship of one religious denomination into another. It does not derogate from the State's authority to acquire any place of religious worship for a secular and public purpose," the Bench observed.

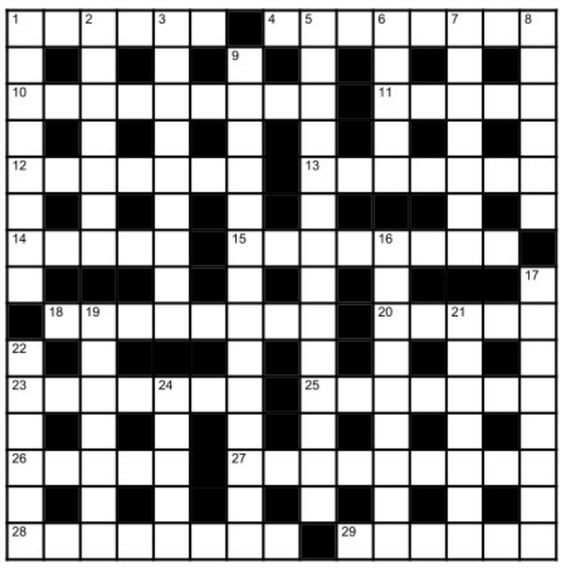
Workers demolish a portion of the Mirza Karimullah Beg Mosque during a road-widening drive in Varanasi on Wednesday. PTI

TH CROSSWORD + 14837

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Cheer about Oscar, it reverberates twice (6)
4. Stays silent on how dad stays married (5,3)
10. Concluding comments covering lots of pages on a soft drink (5,4)
11. Repetition reviewed during tenure regularly (5)
12. Told you to use silent instrument (7)
13. Dirty urinals cut off (7)
14. Bristles at rejected entry into Vatican (5)
15. Cassandra - a film about left and right, primarily (8)
18. Expressing contempt - back in Dubai, perhaps or its neighbour (3,5)
20. Duplicates of small cots (5)
23. Classify a record on Asian language (7)
25. Top few, in other words, are unpleasant (7)
26. Old get promoted, mostly (5)
27. Club provides hemp in a party (9)
28. Stator winding concealed - he changes the resistance (8)
29. Be there at ten daily (6)

DOWN

1. Race ends - Aintree, perhaps, is an option (8)
2. Top of the world, always is in Paris... (7)
3. ...instead bifurcated a hacienda, perhaps (9)
5. Material gain is unexpected considering everyone's equal (14)
6. Hilton, perhaps, is capital (5)
7. Losing them makes one go insane (7)
8. Spaceman tracking to include the tag-line (6)
9. Short book list - find book in a large fancy cover on this subject (7,7)
16. "Red China is covered in smog", says Turner (9)
17. Space traveller finds a chemical substance (8)
19. Mean to collect for example, NO bio-fuel (7)
21. I criticize accepting order to quarantine (7)
22. Puts up with an alternative to lethargy (6)
24. Among strangers, no adult gets legal rights over property (5)

SUDOKU

					5		2	6
	6				4	7		1
	2			7	8			
7							4	
2		9	5		7	1		8
	8							2
			3	4			6	
9		4	7				8	
6	5		9					

No.SS6931 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	4	7	1	8	3	6	9
3	1	8	9	2	6	4	5	7
9	7	6	3	4	5	2	1	8
8	5	7	1	3	2	6	9	4
2	4	1	6	8	9	7	3	5
6	3	9	4	5	7	1	8	2
1	8	5	2	7	3	9	4	6
7	6	3	8	9	4	5	2	1
4	9	2	5	6	1	8	7	3

FAITH

To gossip is to sin

It is universally acknowledged that to gossip is to sin. In his Kural, Valluvar says, "It is more virtuous to die than to live as a false tale-bearer, sowing discord." One should not gossip anywhere, anytime, especially in temples, said Tirukudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

Once there lived a poor but honest pandit whose family was struggling for even one full meal a day. Serendipitously, the local chieftain honoured the pandit and sent him away with a bowl of rice. Happy at the thought of feeding his family, he rushed home and asked his wife to prepare a meal. She joyously prepared a quick meal. Soon their children and the couple had a hot meal, but they fell dead. Yama, the God of Death, was caught in the horns of a dilemma. To whose account should he attribute the untimely death so that the book of sins is balanced? The king had only done a charitable deed and therefore he was not at fault. The pandit merely carried it home, so no fault lay there either. Similarly, the wife prepared the rice into a meal by following standard practices, so she was not at fault either. How did the death itself happen? When the pandit was carrying the rice and rushing home, a drop of poison fell into the bowl from a dead snake carried in its talons by an eagle which flew over the pandit at the exact moment. The eagle was merely living its life, its dharma is to hunt prey. No fault can be laid on the snake that spewed the poison, for it was already dead. While Yama was deliberating, three men were gossiping nearby, all blaming the king for the death of the family of pandits. Yama immediately held them responsible for the death: to gossip is even more heinous than causing death.

INBRIEF

HCLTech bags $1.14 billion deal from European firm

HCLTech on Friday said it has secured a $1.14 billion deal from a Europe-headquartered Fortune Global 50 company to transform and manage its digital workplace and enterprise networks. HCLTech will establish an AI-driven operating model for the client, according to a regulatory filing. The initial term of the agreement spans five-and-a-half years, from July 2026 to December 2031, with an option to extend the partnership for a further period of 5 years. PTI

Nayara's gasoline sold to Russia via traders, sources say

Traders have sold gasoline produced by Indian refiner Nayara Energy to Russia, which is grappling with fuel shortages triggered by Ukrainian attacks on its energy infrastructure, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said on Thursday. *Reuters* reported on Wednesday that Russia had begun seaborne imports of gasoline from India, without naming the supplier. Nayara did not respond to an email from *Reuters* seeking comment.

IIFL Finance raised $300 mn via social debt issue: Bankers

IIFL Finance has accepted bids worth $300 million for a four-year social dollar bond, in its second such fundraise in less than a month, two merchant bankers said on Friday. The non-banking finance company will offer a yield of 7.75% to investors, slightly below the initial price guidance at about 7.85%, the bankers added, requesting anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media. IIFL Finance did not reply to a *Reuters* email seeking comment.

Centre orders blocking of battery management apps

Action comes after e-rickshaws in various parts of the country were turned off via apps developed by Chinese firms to manage lithium ion battery packs; extortion incident reported in Ujjain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday issued orders to block battery management apps after some users discovered they were able to remotely use them to shut down e-rickshaw batteries even as those vehicles were transporting passengers, an official said.

The apps, mostly developed by Chinese firms, appeared to be designed for legitimate battery owners.

The developers of three such apps – named by a Ministry official – Shenzhen Grenergy Technology, Shenzhen Ruichuang Lineng Technology, and Daly BMS, did not respond to queries from *The Hindu*.

It is unclear if banning the apps would completely eliminate the vulnerability, as these apps do not require Internet access to hijack and shut off battery units without a configured password or PIN. Testing standards to certify e-rickshaws do not include cybersecurity requirements.

Soft targets: Testing standards to certify e-rickshaws do not include cybersecurity requirements. FILE PHOTO

Lithium ion battery packs include battery management systems to monitor charge, voltage, temperature and cell health. Instagram reels demonstrating this vulnerability on roads went viral over the week, showing rickshaws grinding to a halt.

A senior official pointed out to *The Hindu* that stranding vehicles like this was a punishable offence, and that "regular IPC/BNS sections of criminal mischief will apply".

The Information Technology Act, 2000 also contains anti-hacking provisions that could apply to smart battery systems.

In Ujjain, the police even caught a person demanding money from e-rickshaw drivers after using the exploit to disable their vehicles. Neel Ganga Police Station in-charge Tarun Kuril stated that the racket came to light following a targeted extortion incident at Loti Tiraha.

"We received information that an auto-rickshaw driver's vehicle had stalled at Loti Tiraha, and a young man charged him ₹200 on the pretext of fixing it.

Upon inquiry, the driver revealed that e-rickshaws in the city are being shut down remotely. Specifically, their batteries are being disabled via a mobile app.

"Some miscreants use this app to immobilise the vehicles and then demand money to restart them," Mr. Kuril said.

Three-wheeler e-rickshaws are typically categorised as L5M vehicles, and manufacturers such as Speego obtain certifications from the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT). A review of the certification requirements on ICAT's website shows that while electrical and mechanical safety and roadworthiness are covered, cybersecurity requirements enumerated in standards such as AIS-189 are not required for e-rickshaws.

(With agency inputs)

'Indian firms will have to leave comfort zone to achieve $1 tn exports'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday reiterated his target of $1 trillion of exports this year, but also said that Indian companies would have to push themselves out of their "cosy and comfortable" domestic market and actively work towards building their brands abroad.

'Difficult, yet possible'

Speaking at the Board of Trade meeting at the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Goyal admitted that the $1 trillion export target would be difficult to achieve, but added that it was possible since the other countries were keen to trade with India.

"The world wants to work with us," he said. "We have to go out and capture those world markets. Wherever I go in the world, they are very keen to work with us. It's our industry that shows weakness. We are cosy and comfortable in our domestic market, but to get into the export market, we need scale, quality, and outreach. It will not happen by just sitting at home."

Piyush Goyal

He told the gathered export promotion councils that the government's Export Promotion Mission would help them set up overseas branding, warehousing, and exhibitions if they needed.

"Please demand what you need, so your products can go to developed countries and countries with whom we have Free Trade Agreements," Mr. Goyal said.

Several trade bodies made presentations at the meeting. According to sources present during the meeting, a common demand was for greater export-related credit.

SIFs see rapid adoption; asset base grows to ₹13,500 cr. by May-end

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The newly introduced Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs) have witnessed rapid adoption, with the category crossing ₹13,814 crore in assets under management (AUM) since the regulatory framework was introduced in February, a top Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) official said on Friday.

SEBI introduced SIFs to bridge the gap between regular mutual funds and high-ticket Portfolio Management Services (PMS). SIFs target sophisticated investors through flexible hedging, derivatives, and long-short strategy.

Speaking at Assocham's 17th Mutual Fund Summit, SEBI Whole-Time Member Amarjeet Singh said, "The regulatory framework for Specialised Investment Fund (SIF) was introduced last year. The early response has been encouraging."

Giving details, he said, "As on May 31 2026, SIFs have already garnered net assets under management of over ₹13,500 crore, spread across more than 56,000 investor folios".

SIFs requires a minimum investment of ₹10 lakh and allow fund managers to use advanced strategies such as derivatives and long-short equity.

According to Mr. Singh, across 21 investment strategies launched, the maximum funds have been mobilised under the Hybrid Long Short investment strategy.

"This indicates a growing investor appetite for differentiated investment solutions within a well-regulated ecosystem," the SEBI official added

'Signs of stress in small ticket loans'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Signs of delay in loan repayment has started to emerge in some segments of business loans even as the overall number suggests higher asset quality.

Unsecured business loans to MSMEs due for payment for more than 90 days (90+DPD), constituted 7.2% of the total unsecured outstanding business loans, as of March 2026, as per a CIBIL and SIDBI report. This is a rise of 274 basis points from March 2023.

Share of 90+DPD loans in total outstanding commercial balances reduced to 1.8% in March 2026 against 2.7% in the corresponding month in 2023 suggesting overall healthy performance by commercial lenders. This, however, masks emerging slippages in unsecured business loan segment.

MSME loans show some stress.

The statistic is crucial as share of individuals borrowing business loans rose to ₹18.3 lakh crore as of March 2026 of the total business loan book of ₹65.8 lakh crore. Individual business loans were just ₹10 lakh crore of total loan book which was also at much lower ₹42 lakh crore in March 2023.

India's services PMI growth at new low

At home, firms cited intensifying competition and reduced client interest as main drag

Gurmehar Kaur
NEW DELHI

Activity in India's services sector eased to its lowest level in 17 months, according to a private sector survey, driven by weak growth in new order intakes in over two-and-a-half years.

The HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index eased to 57.4 in June from 59.8 in May.

While the reading remained comfortably above the neutral 50-mark that separates expansion from contraction and above its long run average, it marked the slowest upturn since January 2025, the report noted.

"The loss of momentum points to more challenging market conditions and weaker demand, particularly at home," said Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC.

New export orders rose at the fastest pace in three months with firms citing stronger demand from markets including Australia, Germany, Singapore, the UAE and the U.S., offering a rare pocket of momentum in an otherwise cooling month.

At home, firms pointed out to intensifying competition and reduced client interest as the main drag, even as some units reported gains from competitive pricing, stronger ecommerce demand, higher customer bookings and improved local tourism.

Assam estate sells country's first commercially produced matcha tea

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

An Assam tea estate on Friday sold India's first commercially-produced matcha tea, marking a significant shift from conventional teas.

Matcha is made after shading Camellia sinensis tea leaves for three to four weeks before harvest. According to tea planters, blocking 90% of sunlight from the leaves boosts chlorophyll and amino acid levels and gives them distinct colour and flavour.

"Five kilograms of the first-ever batch of India-produced matcha tea was sold at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre during sale number 27. Auctioned by J. Thomas & C. Pvt. Ltd. and bought by Guwahati-based Sheosons Chai Co., the premium tea fetched ₹3,000 per kg," Dinesh Bihani, the secretary of Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association, said.

Matcha tea field in Japan. (For representational purpose only)

Making of matcha

"Matcha is made by finely grinding shade-grown tea leaves into vibrant green powder. Unlike usual green tea where leaves are steeped and discarded, matcha is whisked into water and taken entirely, giving higher levels of antioxidants, amino acids and natural caffeine," he said.

The matcha came from Chota Tingrai Tea Estate in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district. Mrityunjay Jalan, the Chota Tingrai's director, said his estate spent a decade collaborating closely with Japanese tea makers, agronomists, equipment suppliers and tea experts for matcha.

"We sought to bridge traditional Assam tea heritage with authentic Japanese expertise by establishing a fully automated, state-of-the-art Japanese tea manufacturing facility on our estate. We are confident matcha from Chota Tingrai will appeal to Indian and international households," he said.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, राजकोट
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rajkot, Gujarat-360110
A Central Autonomous Body Under PMSSY, MoH&FW
Government of India www.aiimsrajkot.edu.com

E.No./AIIMS/Rajkot/Admin/Recruitment/Feculty/2026-27/ Dt. 05.2026

ROLLING ADVERTISMENT

Notification for Faculty Recruitment (Group-A) on Direct Recruitment in AIIMS Rajkot

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Vacancy
1.	Professor	26
2.	Additional Professor	18
3.	Associate Professor	16
4.	Assistant Professor	29
	Total	89

Eligibility Criteria for each post is attached for your reference. For Detailed advertisment and Information, applicant may visit Institute Official Website : www.aiimsrajkot.edu.in

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, राजकोट
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rajkot, Gujarat-360110
A Central Autonomous Body Under PMSSY, MoH&FW
Government of India www.aiimsrajkot.edu.com

E.No./AIIMS/Rajkot/Admin/Rectt/NF/2026-27/ Dt. 05.2026

ROLLING ADVERTISMENT

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF GROUP 'A' NON-FACULTY POST IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENT ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT BASIS

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Level	Vacancy
1.	Medical Physicist	Level 10 as per 7th CPC	2 (UR)
2.	Clinical Psychologist	Level 10 as per 7th CPC	1 (UR)
3.	Child Psychologist	Level 10 as per 7th CPC	1 (UR)

Eligibility Criteria for each post is attached for your reference. For Detailed advertisment and Information, applicant may visit Institute Official Website : www.aiimsrajkot.edu.in

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT
PIU KAU, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, MANNUTHY, THRISSUR - 680651, PHONE: 9037 824 052

TENDER NOTICE

The Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization Project (KERA), a Government of Kerala initiative, invites offline quotations on 29-06-2026 for the below tenders with deadlines.

RFQ Title	Last Date for Quotation Submission
Supply and Installation of High-Performance Workstation System	13.07.2026 at 02.30 PM
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fume Hood	13.07.2026 at 02.00 PM

For queries, email: **piukau@kera.kerala.gov.in**
For more details visit: **https://kera.kerala.gov.in/notifications**
Sd/- **Technical Specialist (Agronomy), PIU KAU, KERA**

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/ EMD	Start of sale /Last date
RIS2627A0041 & RIS2627GLOB00037	RFP for Supply, Installation & Maintenance of IT Equipments	Rs. 2.30 Crore	30.06.2026 / 07.08.2026

Details can be seen on the websites **http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**
Raj.Samwad/C/26/6055 Technical Director

F.No.A-12024/1/2024-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

VACANCY NOTICE

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The vacancy notice published in the Employment News edition dated 23rd-29th May 2026 for filling the following posts in the Mahadayi PRAWAH on a deputation basis (including short-term contract) by this office is hereby revised. **The last date for submission of duly filled applications, which was 21.06.2026, has been further extended by 04 Weeks from the date of publication of this vacancy notice in the Employment News.**

S. No.	Name of the post	Pay Scale	No. of Post
1.	Member (Environmental Issues)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
2.	Member (Hydrology)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
3.	Member (Monitoring and Regulation)	Level-14 (Rs.144200-218200)	01
4.	Director (Finance)	Level-13 (Rs.123100-215900)	01

2. All other terms and conditions of the previous vacancy notice shall remain unchanged. The interested candidates who have not yet applied may submit their applications as per the procedure mentioned in the detailed vacancy notice available on the official website: **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in**. and **dopt.gov.in**.

(Sameer Kumar Munda)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 011-23716252
Email: use4-mowr@nic.in

*[**Note:** The English version shall always prevail in case of any discrepancy or inconsistency between English version and its Hindi translation.]*

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit-1: Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	WORK DESCRIPTION	Due Date
262713 002194	Design, Supply and Erection of PEB for new Reel Storage Godown (Size: 50 Mtr x 21 Mtr) at TNPL Unit-I.	15.07.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC portal only. Detailed terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at websites: **https://www.tnpl.com/tenders/** & **https://www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR / **2198** / Tender / 2026

TNPL-MAKER OF BAGASSE BASED ECO-FRIENDLY PAPER

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN – 628 004

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Providing the Multipurpose Shed including Toilet facilities at Maintenance sub division in VOC Port	40,47,870/-	80,957/-	22.07.2026
2.	Construction of Truck Parking Terminal at Port land opposite to SEPC Power Pvt. Ltd	46,93,63,083/-	71,93,631/-	23.07.2026

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**
ii) **https://www.vocport.gov.in**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
VOCPA

WASHINGTON

Trump says 'ridiculous' for U.S. to maintain current NATO support

REUTERS

President Donald Trump said on Thursday it is "ridiculous" for the United States to continue its "one sided" relationship with NATO, less than a week before a NATO summit in Ankara. Mr. Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform: "They were not there for us!!!" and Washington's relationship with NATO "is not reciprocal". AFP

ABUJA

U.S. withdrew forces from Nigeria after mission against IS: AFRICOM

AP

The United States has withdrawn most of the forces it deployed for an operation against Islamic State militants in Nigeria and is now providing intelligence support at Abuja's request, the head of U.S. Africa Command said. "Nigeria has been active since the operation in May," AFRICOM Commander Gen. Dagvin Anderson said. REUTERS

GENEVA

UN human rights chief sounds 'red alert' over violence in Sudan

AFP

The United Nations human rights chief, Volker Turk, on Friday sounded a "red alert" about possible atrocity crimes in and near el-Obeid in central Sudan, calling on world leaders to do more to help stop the bloodshed in the country's ongoing war between the army and paramilitary forces. AP

BRASILIA

Lula blasts Flavio Bolsonaro for requesting delay in U.S. tariff hike

AP

Brazil's leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Thursday lashed out at his right-wing rival Flavio Bolsonaro for looking to postpone potential U.S. tariff hikes until after the South American country's elections. "Asking that the brutal rate hike against our country be postponed until after the elections is yet another act of treason." AFP

Khamenei lies in state in Tehran for week of mass funeral events

Parliament Speaker Ghalibaf says Iran's 'call for vengeance must ring in the ears of the whole world'; Pakistan says Shehbaz Sharif will attend the ceremony; China, Afghanistan, and Caucasian countries say they will also be sending representatives

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian leaders began paying their respects on Friday before the coffin of the country's late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, killed by U.S.-Israeli strikes on February 28, as Tehran prepared for a vast funeral.

Khamenei's body arrived at Tehran's Grand Mosalla on Friday ahead of ceremonies which are expected to draw millions.

A coterie of foreign dignitaries is also due to attend Saturday's official ceremony, with Tehran's chief negotiator calling for a massive turnout to avenge his death.

State TV broadcast footage of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian paying his respects on Friday afternoon alongside Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

Ahmad Vahidi, head of the Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of the military, also appeared, making his first appearance since the start of the war.

Preparations for Khamenei's public funeral are taking place as Iran and the U.S. observe a fragile ceasefire.

Pakistan, a key mediator in the U.S.-Iran talks, said its Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would attend the ceremony.

Mourners pay their respects before the coffins of Ali Khamenei and members of his family at the Grand Mosalla in Tehran on Friday. AP

China, Afghanistan and Iran's neighbours in the Caucasus region said they would also be sending representatives.

On behalf of Indian government, Union Minister of State Pabitra Margherita and Bihar Governor Syed Ata Hasnain attended the ceremony on Friday and paid their respects.

Mr. Ghalibaf had called on Thursday for "all the Iranian people... to write a glorious page in the history of Islamic Iran through your presence".

"The nation's call for vengeance must ring in the ears of the whole world," Mr. Ghalibaf added in a statement.

Khamenei will lie in state for three days at the colossal Grand Mosalla, which has been draped in banners featuring his image and quotes.

The bodies of his slain relatives, including his three-year-old granddaughter, will also be present.

Russia, Ukraine exchange strikes after attack on Kyiv

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

At least 10 people were killed in Ukrainian attacks on Russia and Moscow-held territory, local officials said on Friday, as Ukraine reported five killed in Russian attacks.

The exchange of deadly strikes comes a day after Russia unleashed an overnight pummelling – one of the worst of the conflict – on Ukraine's capital Kyiv, leaving at least 30 dead.

On Friday, a Ukrainian strike on a market in the Russian-held part of the southern Zaporizhzhia region killed five persons, the Kremlin-appointed governor said.

"This is a strike against civilian life – against people who had come to buy groceries," Yevgeny Balitsky said on Telegram.

The site of what Ukrainian media reported was a Russian strike on the Ukrainian Red Cross warehouse in Kyiv on Friday. REUTERS

He earlier said three people had been killed in separate attacks in the region.

Ukraine meanwhile reported a strike on its north-eastern region of Sumy that set a house ablaze and killed four people – including a toddler. Three more people were wounded in the attack.

Kyiv's air force said on Friday that Russia launched two missiles and 105 drones at Ukraine overnight.

Russia, meanwhile, shot down 155 Ukrainian drones overnight from Thursday to Friday over its regions and annexed Crimea, according to the Russian Defence Ministry.

Venezuela's interim leader Delcy defends earthquake response

Associated Press
CATIA LA MAR

Venezuela's U.S.-backed acting President Delcy Rodríguez on Thursday issued a fiery defence of her government's response to last week's devastating earthquakes, lashing out at critics who say authorities reacted too slowly, pushing back on suggestions that the true death toll is far higher than the government has acknowledged and rejecting accusations that the nation's shoddily constructed social housing exacerbated the disaster.

At a press conference, Ms. Rodríguez refused to accept the criticism.

Delcy Rodriguez

"We did not wait one day, two days or three days. We activated immediately," she said, lacing into media outlets that she accused of spreading misinformation.

Authorities have counted at least 2,295 people killed by the quake so far.

Houthis threaten Saudi after alleged airspace intrusion

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

Yemen's Houthis threatened on Friday Saudi airports and vital assets should Riyadh violate its airspace or attempt to attack it, as the rebels accused the kingdom of trying to stop an Iranian plane from landing.

The threats followed a time of relative calm between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed rebels, which did not target Gulf states during the West Asia war that saw Iran pummel its oil-rich neighbours.

"We warn the criminal Saudi enemy against repeating any attempt to violate our airspace or any aggression targeting our country," military spokesperson Yahya Saree said.

"Such actions will be met with a comprehensive response targeting its airports and vital interests on land and sea."

Mr. Saree said the rebels had thwarted an attempt by Saudi warplanes to infiltrate their airspace in a bid "to prevent an Iranian civilian aircraft from landing at Sanaa International Airport".

Houthi media earlier reported that the aircraft had headed back to Tehran carrying the Houthi delegation meant to attend the funeral of Ali Khamenei.

Sri Lanka ex-Navy chief arrested over 'illegal' recruitment of Rajapaksa's son

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's anti-graft authorities on Friday arrested former Navy Commander Wasantha Karannagoda in connection with the alleged illegal recruitment and overseas training of Yoshitha Rajapaksa, son of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court later granted him bail.

Issuing a statement following the arrest, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) said Admiral of the Fleet Karannagoda was taken into custody over the "unlawful recruitment" of Mr. Yoshitha as a cadet executive officer despite his failing to meet the required qualifications. It also alleged that Mr. Karannagoda facilitated Mr. Yoshitha's training at the Royal Naval Academy in the United Kingdom at the state's expense.

Wasantha Karannagoda

Mr. Karannagoda commanded the Sri Lankan Navy when the state forces defeated the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), ending the country's nearly three-decade civil war in May 2009.

In 2019, he was conferred the Admiral of the Fleet rank.

Mr. Karannagoda has previously been accused of abduction and conspiracy to murder in a sensational case, commonly referred to as the "Navy 11" case in Sri Lanka, linked to the disappearance of 11 youth in 2008 and 2009. The case drew international attention, including from the United Nations and global rights groups, with many seeing it as emblematic of crimes committed by the military.

Investigators traced the disappearance and alleged murder of the young men to an elaborate ransom scheme carried out by Navy personnel. The charges against Mr. Karannagoda were dropped in October 2021 during President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's time in office. Within months, President Gotabaya appointed him as the Governor of the North Western Province, sparking serious concern among victims' families and rights activists.

After President Anura Kumara Dissanayake came to power in September 2024, promising to wipe out corruption and bring perpetrators of high-profile crimes to justice, the victims' families sought to revive the case. In March 2025, the United Kingdom sanctioned Mr. Karannagoda, citing allegations of serious human rights violations.

THE MYSORE PAPER MILLS LIMITED
Paper Town, BHADRAVATI-577 302, KARNATAKA.
CIN: L99999KA1936SGC000173 (03.06.2014)
Cell No.: +91-9448218706 / +91-9632451730
E-mail: dirforestsmpm@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING Short Term e-TENDERS for cutting, debarking, collection, stacking, transportation and delivery of 10000 MT of debarked Eucalyptus/Euca Pellita and 10000 MT Acacia Hyb., (Total 20000 MT) pulpwood from MPM Captive plantations to the buyer's destination points.

Short Term e-Tender No. E-Portal NO. MPML/2026-27/SE0053 dtd. 01.07.2026 **Last date & time for Bid submission :** 08.07.2026 at 5.30 PM

Tenders are invited from MPM Registered Forest Contractors & others (those who register their names by furnishing required documents before submission of tender) Tenderers shall submit tenders only through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Cost of document: As per e-portal norms. Blank tender documents downloaded from e-procurement portal/MPM website http//mpm.Karnataka.gov.in Any changes/ amendments to this tender will be published in the e-procurement portal only.

Sd/- Director (Forest) I/c

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/17/07/459

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant of Horticulture (Mahadevapura / K.R. Pura Zone), BECC, Vengaiahan Lake, ECO Park, K.R. Pura, Bangalore-560036.

No. SADH(S)/TENDER/02/2026-27 Date: 03-07-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (SHORT TERM)

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Mahadevapura / K.R.Pura), BECC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BECC invites Tenders from eligible experienced person / agencies / firms registered in GBA or Labour department for maintenance of parks as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Beautification, landscape development, water facility and other civil works and Borewell drilling of Jagadishnagar in Ward No. 25. Amount put to tender : **Rs. 80,00,000/-.** EMD amount: **Rs. 16,000/-.**
2	Beautification, landscape development, water facility and other civil works and Borewell drilling of Bennaganahalli Lake Park in Ward No. 24. Amount put to tender : **Rs. 1,50,00,000/-.** EMD amount: **Rs. 2,25,000/-**
3	Landscape development, water facility with Drip irrigation system and Borewell drilling and other civil works of LG Lake Due Park in Ward No. 06. Amount put to tender : **Rs. 2,00,00,000/-.** EMD amount: **Rs. 3,00,000/-**

Duration / Period of Maintenance : **12 months.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07.07.2026. (2)** Last date for receipt of queries: **10.07.2026. (3)** Date of pre-bid meeting : **15.07.2026. (4)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **18.07.2026. (5)** Date of opening of Technical bid : **20.07.2026. (6)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **After approval of technical bid.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Mahadevapura / K.R. Pura Zone, BECC

Government of Karnataka
Department of Ayush
Zilla Panchayat, District Ayush Office., Ballari/ Vijayanagar. Veeranagouda Colony, Ashoka Nagar, Opp:Kumaraswamy Temple, Near Bhagya Hospital, Ballari-583103 dao.bellary09@gmail.com

No: DAOV/GROUP–D/E-TENDER/2025-26 **Dtae: 02.07.2026**

e-tender Notification

Inviting e-tender Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the manpower service as per the minimum wages act for the year contract agreement date to one year by the District Ayush Department, in the Government Ayush Hospitals/ Dispenceries Across the Vijayanagar district. The last date for viewing and downloading and uploading at the e-Procurement web site www.kpp.karnataka.gov.in 18.07.2026 at 05.00 pm. The estimated value of the e-tender is Rs. 76.34 lakhs. Interested persons can submitted in time.

Sd/- District Ayush Officer

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/299

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru-560029
Ph : 080-29753354/56, E-mail: Karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

No: KBOCWWB/NOTIFICATIONS/2026-27 **Dated: 30-06-2026**

e-Tender Notification

Tenders (Three bid system – Pre-Qualification Technical and Financial bids) are hereby invited by Board from the interested Agencies as per Terms and conditions described in the Bid documents for Selection of an Agency to Provide Preventive Healthcare Checkup Facilities for the Registered Construction Workers of the Board and their Dependents in jurisdiction of Labour Officer Subdivision-04, Subdivision-06, Subdivision-08 Bengaluru and Bengaluru Rural of Karnataka (3rd Stage).

Tenders shall be submitted electronically through K.P.P.Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in of the Government of Karnataka. Last date of submission of completed tenders is on 30-07-2026 up to 5.00PM. For further details and information can be obtained from the Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB during office hours.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary
KB&OCWWB

DIPR/CP/1468/AKAR/2026-27

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
MADHUGIRI SUB DIVISION, MADHUGIRI

No: ACF/MSD/O.S/TENDER/CR-03/2026-27 **Dated: 29-06-2026**

E-Tender Notification

E-Tenders are invited from the reputed Labour Contractor/ Human Resources Services Organisations for providing Man Power i.e., **Literate Assistant/Computer Operator, Drivers and APC Camp Watchers** to the various units comes under Assistant Conservator of Forests, Madhugiri Sub Division, Madhugiri for the year 2026-27 (01-4-2026 to 31-3-2028). The Service Providers/ Agencies shall apply for the following works.

Total Number of Man power required	**50**
Highest Estimated Amount of the Works	**Rs.72,23,860/-**
Highest Value of the EMD	**Rs. 1,44,477/-**
Lowest Estimated Amount of the Works	**Rs. 13,33,160/-**
Lowest Value of the EMD	**Rs. 33,329/-**

Last date for submission of Bid : **14-07-2026 at 3:00 PM**
Technical Bid Opening Date : **15-07-2026 at 03:00 PM**
For more information about this tender may contact our office at office timings and more details on **https://KPPP Portal (karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Madhugiri Sub Division, Madhugiri.

DIPR/TUM/RO-69/26-27/Oysters

SPECIAL MOMENT

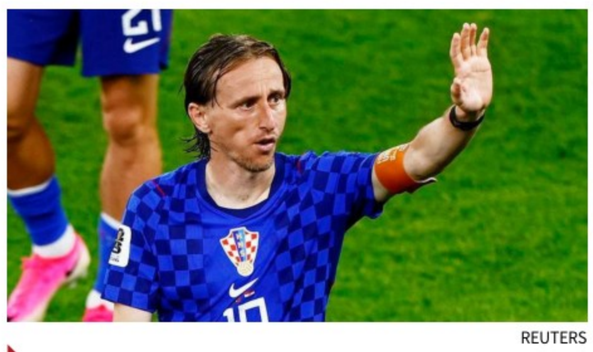
Coincidence of life: Ronaldo after Jota tribute a year from his death

REUTERS

Cristiano Ronaldo said it was a "coincidence of life" that Portugal's World Cup last-16 win over Croatia on Thursday came almost a year after the death of his late teammate Diogo Jota. "We knew it before the game. It was a special moment. We speak today, our group, about that, the coincidence of life. It is unbelievable".

LEGEND

'Inspired millions': Modric praised as his WC career appears to end



REUTERS

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic and Portugal's Roberto Martinez paid tribute to Luka Modric. "This was probably his last World Cup, and I am sorry that it ended this way. He was leading Croatia until the very end," said Dalic. "His example is going to stay in the folklore of football forever," Portugal chief coach Martinez said.

POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT

Klopp in talks for Germany job after Nagelsmann exit: federation

AFP

Jurgen Klopp has told the German FA (DFB) that he is "fundamentally willing" to take over as the Germany head coach after Julian Nagelsmann handed in his resignation, the DFB confirmed on Friday. Nagelsmann stepped down just four days after Germany's disappointing last-32 exit from the World Cup.

SIGNING OFF

Mahrez retires from international football after World Cup ouster

REUTERS

Riyad Mahrez announced his retirement from international football after Algeria's World Cup exit. "It has been an immense honour and a great source of pride," said Mahrez, a member of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations winning squad. He retired with the second-most appearances (119) and the second-most goals (40) for Algeria.

Portugal edges Croatia amid VAR controversy

Gvardiol's strike deep in stoppage time is disallowed leaving Ramos' header as the winner; Ronaldo levels from the spot after Perisic's opener

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
TORONTO

Substitute Goncalo Ramos' headed goal edged Portugal into the last 16 of the World Cup on Thursday after Croatia was dramatically denied an equaliser by VAR.

Ramos settled a classic World Cup game when he connected with a superb pass from Rafael Leao in the fourth minute of stoppage time to snuff out a Croatia team which had created the lion's share of the chances in sapping heat.

Croatia thought it had snatched a goal in the dying seconds of extra time, but Josko Gvardiol's goal was chalked off for offside.

The Croatians were left stunned by the decision, and their fans began hurling rubbish on the pitch.

In the seconds before Gvardiol's disallowed goal, the Portuguese bench and coach Roberto Martinez were growing increasingly livid, begging match officials for the final whistle.

Cristiano Ronaldo played his role in the victory, stroking home a penalty that cancelled out Ivan Perisic's opener.

Rising high: Ramos towers over the Croatian defence to nod home Portugal's second. REUTERS

It was Ronaldo's first ever goal in the knockout phase of the World Cup, and it made him the oldest scorer in that phase in the tournament's history.

Portugal now faces Spain in Dallas on Monday.

After the match, Ronaldo shared a long exchange with Croatian legend Luka Modric, one of football's all-time greats, whose World Cup career has almost certainly ended with Thursday's defeat.

The match marked the first time that two outfield players aged over 40 took to the same pitch in a World Cup.

At the end, the Portugal players also paid tribute to late teammate Diogo Jota, who was killed in a car crash a year ago, by holding up his number 21 shirt.

RESULTS

Round of 32: Spain 3 (Oyarzabal 36, 89, Porro 66) bt Austria 0. Portugal 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo 68-pen, Goncalo Ramos 90+4) bt Croatia 1 (Perisic 53). Switzerland 2 (Embolo 10, Ndoye 46) bt Algeria 0.

Oyarzabal's brace helps Spain sweep past Austria

Agencies
LOS ANGELES

Spain cruised past Austria and into the World Cup last 16 on Thursday, thoroughly outclassing its opponent in a 3-0 win after a brace from Mikel Oyarzabal and a Pedro Porro header.

The reigning European champion controlled possession and sliced through the Austrian defence as it set up a tantalising round-of-16 clash with Portugal.

Spain ratcheted up the pressure gradually through the opening period, creating a string of chances after the first hydration break.

Marc Cucurella thought he had scored from a Lamine Yamal corner, but Pau Cubarsi was judged to have encroached on the Austria goalkeeper.

Alexander Schlager then made a superb diving save, pushing Oyarzabal's low shot around the post.

But Austria's defence finally buckled in the 36th minute as Pedri delivered a pass on the left to Cucurella, whose cross to Oyarzabal was calmly side-footed past the 'keeper.

After the break, Spain continued knocking on the door without quite putting the game to rest.

But it struck again in the 66th minute when Baena lifted a cross onto the head of Porro, who nodded in his first goal for the national side.

Some dogged defending, including a goalline clearance by David Alaba from Yamal, kept the scoreline respectable.

But in the 89th minute, a pin-point Cucurella cross found a completely unmarked Oyarzabal in the penalty area and the striker slotted the ball home.

Switzerland through

In Vancouver, Breel Embolo and Dan Ndoye scored a goal each as Switzerland moved into the last 16 with a controlled 2-0 win over Algeria.

The effervescent Johan Manzambi created the first goal, surging down the left wing before crossing for Embolo (10th minute) to tap the ball in.

Ndoye slotted in the second less than a minute into the second half, controlling Rafik Belghali's weak clearance and shooting through a crowd of players. Algeria could not find a way back.

Stat attack

1 Portugal recorded its first comeback win in the knockouts since 1966 (against North Korea)

1 Ronaldo scored his first knockout stage goal in his sixth World Cup

1 Ronaldo is the first player in history to figure in a knockout game at the age of 41 or older

1 Simon (519 minutes) overtook Zenga to become the goalkeeper with the longest period without letting in a goal in the marquee event

1 Oyarzabal became the first Spaniard to score two or more goals in two matches of the same edition

2 Cubarsi and Yamal were the first pair of teenagers to start a knockout match in 68 years after Pele and Altafini (Brazil vs. Wales, quarterfinals, 1958)

3 Three players who have played in more than 20 World Cup games featured in the same match for the first time (Ronaldo 26, Modric 23, Perisic 21)

5 Manzambi became the only Swiss player to be involved in five strikes (3 goals, 2 assists) in a single edition in the last 60 years

6 Perisic became the sixth to score in four different editions (after Cristiano Ronaldo, Messi, Klose, Seeler, and Pele)

37y 150d
Perisic surpassed Olic (34y 277d) to become the oldest Croatian to score at the football carnival

88 Switzerland registered its first knockout stage win since 1938 (4-2 vs. West Germany, Round of 16 replay)

Compiled by **ANIRUDH VELAMURI**

France is bossing it but Paraguay may be no pushover

Ayon Sengupta
PHILADELPHIA

As Philadelphia prepares to mark 250 years since the adoption of the American Declaration of Independence, France arrives looking every bit the World Cup's dominant force but is well aware that Paraguay has already shown how quickly an empire can be unsettled.

Les Bleus have spent much of this tournament making opponents look alarmingly unprepared. It is football played at a pace and precision that can make resistance feel futile.

France has scored 13 goals, conceded only twice and moved through the showpiece with the air of a team that has found its rhythm early. But Saturday's last-16 tie against Paraguay carries its own warning. Gustavo Alfaro's side has already authored the shock of the tournament against Germany.

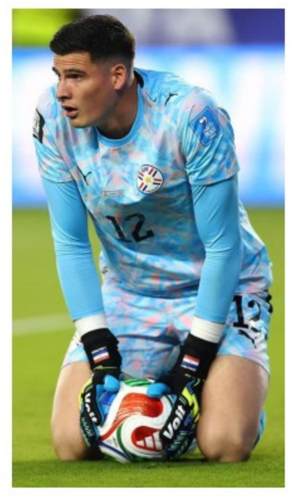
Paraguay will not try to trade punches with France. It will look to smother spaces, break the rhythm and turn the evening into a long, airless struggle in which the favourite begins to doubt itself.

Kylian Mbappe, one of the early contenders for the Golden Boot with six goals, acknowledged the danger Paraguay poses. "I am focused on the climate and the locker room. They showed that they are a team to be taken seriously after Germany," he said.

The temperature is expected to hit higher than 38 degrees, with scientists urging FIFA to push back the 5 p.m. start.

Coach Didier Deschamps has also warned against reading Paraguay's run as a novelty. "What they have achieved is no accident," he said.

There is history here, too. The last time France faced Paraguay in a WC knockout game in 1998, it needed Laurent Blanc's golden goal in the 114th minute to escape. For Paraguay, the task is simple – make France wait, work, and see if impatience can unsettle Les Bleus.



Paraguay goalkeeper Gill is expected to be kept busy by France. GETTY IMAGES

Sunday's match

ROUND OF 16

Paraguay vs. **France**, 2.30 a.m.

The day and time pertain to India

Samson in focus as India takes guard for second T20I

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
MANCHESTER

With Vaibhav Sooryavanshi breathing down his neck, Sanju Samson will be under pressure to turn the busts in his performance graph into consistent booms as India takes on England in the second T20I here on Saturday.

The first game was abandoned after India posted a healthy 189 for seven in Chester-le-Street. The focus of attention during the next few games will be Samson and it remains to be seen whether he can weather the Sooryavanshi storm that is building up on the sidelines.

In an alternate universe, three back-to-back match-winning knocks in India's T20 World Cup triumph would have given the opener a cushion for a year.

But with Indian cricket discovering a generational talent like Sooryavanshi, Samson's margin for error has become minimal.

Samson. AFP

With Abhishek Sharma smashing his way to 49 and 59 in two of the last three games, the pressure is on Samson to get some runs under his belt.

While the team management is firm on not pushing the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi, he possibly can't be kept cooling his heels forever. However, it is not just Samson who is struggling in this batting order. Tilak Varma's approach in the middle overs is also an issue.

He is struggling to push the scoring rate once the slow bowlers come into operation or the seamers take pace off their deliveries.

The bowling unit is unlikely to change as the Old Trafford track offers some grip and the wrist spinners have had a profitable time at the venue.

For England, the power-packed batting line-up, led by skipper Harry Brook, Phil Salt and Tom Banton, is capable of taking the attack to the Indian bowlers.

The teams (from): England (XI): Harry Brook (Capt.), Phil Salt, Jos Buttler (wk), Jacob Bethell, Tom Banton, Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Liam Dawson, Adil Rashid, Jofra Archer, and Josh Tongue.
India: Shreyas Iyer (Capt,), Tilak Varma (Vice-capt.), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan (wk), Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Prince Yadav, Suryansh Shedge, Arshdeep Singh, Washington Sundar, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, and Varun Chakaravarthy.
Match starts at 7 p.m. IST.

Djokovic equals Federer's record

WIMBLEDON

Agencies
LONDON

Novak Djokovic equalled Roger Federer's record for most match wins at Wimbledon as the seven-time champion battled past 25th seed Arthur Rinderknech to reach the fourth round here on Friday.

The 39-year-old notched up his 105th victory at the All England Club by winning 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4) despite a spirited fightback from Rinderknech on Centre Court.

"To be able to make history in this sport is a huge honour and privilege, especially here," said Djokovic. "It has always been a dream tournament for me. I am just trying to win a match on a given day. Today, I was quite stressed out, more tension than usual. I propose a match-up between Roger and me for 106, let us stop it here and ask Roger to come."

Djokovic also tied Federer for most appearances in the last 16 at Wimbledon in the Open era, making the fourth round for the 18th time. He will next face qualifier Roman Safiullin on Sunday for a place in his 66th Slam quarterfinal and 17th at Wimbledon. Safiullin, ranked 132nd in the world, beat 24th seed Joao Fonseca 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Floored! Djokovic survived a spirited fight from Rinderknech to script history. AFP

Medvedev bows out

Eighth seed Daniil Medvedev, a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2024, suffered a third-round exit when Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff, ranked 74th, defeated him 7-6(4), 7-6(5), 7-5.

Meanwhile, Jannik Sinner's title defence gathered pace as the World No. 1 swept aside Jenson Brooksby 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Having been dragged into a five-set battle in his opener and forced to negotiate two tie-breaks in the next, the Italian looked increasingly at home on the grass of Court One.

Long wait ends

On the women's side, Japan's Naomi Osaka ended her long wait to reach the Wimbledon fourth round for the first time with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Australian Daria Kasatkina. Osaka has caused a stir with her eye-catching outfits, but the 28-year-old is finally stealing the spotlight with her performances as well. World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka powered past Jelena Ostapenko 6-4, 6-4.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Third round: Safiullin bt 24-Fonseca (Bra) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; 7-Djokovic (Srb) bt 25-Rinderknech (Fra) 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(4); 1-Sinner bt Brooksby 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; Struff (Ger) bt 8-Medvedev 7-6(4), 7-6(5), 7-5; Mochizuki (Jpn) bt 23-Jodar (Esp) 1-6, 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-4; Hurkacz (Pol) bt 21-Paul (USA) 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-5, 6-2; 22-Fokina (Esp) bt Fucsovics (Hun) 7-6(3), 6-2, 6-3. **Second round:** 17-Tiafoe (USA) bt Choinski (GBr) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-2; Dimitrov (Bul) bt 15-Mensik (Cze) 7-6(5), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Women: Third round: 11-Bencic (Sui) bt 19-Kalinskaya 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(6); 14-Osaka (Jpn) bt Kasatkina 6-1, 6-3; 4-Pegula (USA) bt Maneiro (Esp) 6-1, 6-3; 16-Jovic (USA) bt 18-Alexandrova 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; 1-Sabalenka bt Ostapenko (Lat) 6-4, 6-4; 10-Muchova (Cze) bt Sawangkaew (Tha) 6-2, 7-6(1).
Second round: 25-Mertens (Bel) bt Timofeeva (Uzb) 2-6, 6-3, 6-0; 2-Rybakina (Kaz) by McNally (USA) 6-1, 6-2; 13-Paolini (Ita) bt Golubic (Sui) 7-6(0), 6-4; 9-Noskova (Cze) by Osorio (Col) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.
Fallen seeds: Men: 8-Medvedev, 15-Mensik, 21-Paul, 23-Jodar, 24-Fonseca, 25-Rinderknech.
Women: 18-Alexandrova, 19-Kalinskaya.

FIDE bans Kramnik for two years

Sports Bureau

The FIDE has imposed a two-year worldwide ban on Vladimir Kramnik from participating in its chess competitions or acting in official chess functions for alleged violations of the Ethics Code and Disciplinary Code.

The FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (EDC) issued its decision in disciplinary proceedings involving the former World champion. The proceedings arose from complaints submitted by the Management Board and the Fair Play Commission concerning a series of public statements and posts made by Kramnik about GM David Navara and the late GM Daniel Naroditsky.

Kramnik. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

INBRIEF

Sai Sudharsan and Padikkal lead strong India-A reply

Opener B. Sai Sudharsan notched up his second successive century of the series as India-A finished day two of the second 'Test' at a strong 247 for one in Galle on Friday. Devdutt Padikkal (94 batting) was giving Sai Sudharsan company. India-A trails by 119 runs, after bowling out Sri Lankan-A for 366 in the first innings.

The scores: Sri Lanka-A 366 in 110 overs (Sahan Arachchige 127, Saransh Jain 4/92, Gurnoor Brar 4/77) vs India-A 247/1 in 63 overs (Sai Sudharsan batting 104, Devdutt Padikkal batting 94).

Coles and Tongue named in England ODI squad

Uncapped all-rounder James Coles and fast bowler Josh Tongue were on Friday named in England's 16-member side to face India in a three-match ODI series later this month.

The squad: Harry Brook (Capt.), Tom Banton (wk), Jacob Bethell, Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Jos Buttler (wk), Will Jacks, Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, James Coles, Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid and Josh Tongue.

Indian challenge ends in Canada Open badminton

Tanya Hemnath and Aakarshi Kashyap lost their women's singles second round matches to draw curtains to the Indian challenge at the Canada Open here. Tanya lost to third seed Riko Gunji of Japan 11-21, 11-21 while Aakarshi went down to fourth seed Beiwen Zhang of USA 22-20, 17-21, 17-21.

Two more medals assured for India at Asian youth TT

India continued its impressive campaign at the ITTF-ATTU Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships, assuring itself of two more medals in Bangkok on Friday.

The results:

U-19: Girls: Quarterfinals: Syndrela Das bt Yuna Ojio (Jpn) 11-5, 11-7, 5-11, 3-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-3; Mao Takamori (Jpn) bt Divyanshi Bhowmick 7-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-5, 11-9.

Doubles: Semifinals: Syndrela & Divyanshi Bhowmick bt Yao Ruixuan & Jiang Yiyi (Chn) 7-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Quarterfinals: Syndrela & Divyanshi bt Thasita Kanaphong & Pimmada Thongnak (Tha) 11-6, 13-15, 11-9, 11-8.

Boys: Quarterfinals: Kohaku Nakano (Jpn) bt P.B. Abhinand 11-4, 16-14, 11-5, 8-11, 12-10; Ankur Bhattacharjee

Pre-quarterfinals: Abhinand bt Yang Hao-en (Tpe) 11-9, 6-11, 9-11, 6-11, 11-8, 14-12, 11-6.

Mixed doubles: Semifinals: Thitaphat Preechayan & Kulapassr Vijitviriyagul (Tha) bt Abhinand & Divyanshi 11-7, 11-9, 5-11, 11-5.

Napoli hires former Milan coach Allegri

Serie A runner-up Napoli officially hired Massimiliano Allegri as coach on Friday. The news had been expected for weeks, since Antonio Conte confirmed he was leaving Napoli at the end of May and AC Milan fired Allegri following "an unequivocal failure" of a season. Allegri has signed a three-year contract at Napoli.

It's England vs Australia in the final

Sciver-Brunt puts on 133 with Knight to set South Africa a target of 170; the Proteas suffer yet another reversal in an ICC event knockout fixture

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

Luaren Bell smiled winsomely at the phone camera, with fans behind her in the stands. Linsey Smith posed with a baby. Charlie Dean was happily taking selfies as well.

It was indeed a night to remember for the England women at the Oval here on Thursday. They took their well-deserved spot in the final of the T20 World Cup after beating South Africa by 40 runs in the second semifinal, in front of a near full house.

They will meet old rival Australia in Sunday's final at Lord's. Like the English, the Australians had also scored a convincing win against the West Indies in the semifinal at the same venue.

But, unlike Australia, the home team had to survive a crisis early in the match. England had been reduced to 23 for three by a superb spell with the new ball by Shabnim Ismail and Marizanne Kapp. Among those back in the dugout was Danni Wyatt-Hodge, the tournament's leading scorer.

It took an extraordinary innings from skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt (75, 47b, 11x4, 1x6) and her 133-run stand with former captain Heather Knight (58, 47b, 6x4, 1x6) for England to pose what would turn out to be a formidable total, 169 for five. And this was Sciver-Brunt's first match after retiring hurt during the game against Ireland a fortnight ago.

Making the difference: Sciver-Brunt smashed 75 off 47 balls to lead England's fightback. AP

The South African chase got off to a bright start, with skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits adding 43. But Wolvaardt, who failed to take her brilliant form from the home series against India to the World Cup, fell to a superb catch by Sophie Ecclestone off Smith, and it was another miserable tale of failure for South African in an ICC event knockout fixture.

And it was another fine effort in the field by England, for which Bell and Dean picked up two wickets each. After the win, Sciver-Brunt admitted it was an emotional moment.

"I was very nervous going in and I suppose quite emotional about the occasion and what we have been able to do as a team," she said. "I am excited and proud of what I have been able to do as a captain."

The scores: England 169/5 in 20 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 75, Heather Knight 58, Shabnim Ismail 2/31, Nonkululeko Mlaba 2/25) bt South Africa 129/8 in 20 overs (Tazmin Brits 51, Luaren Bell 2/28, Charlie Dean 2/31). **Toss:** SA; **PoM:** Sciver-Brunt.

Ritesh stars in Warriors' win over Mystics

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau

Ritesh Bhatkal's unbeaten 75 helped Mysore Warriors record a three-wicket victory over Gulbarga Mystics in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 in Hubballi on Friday.

Mystics, put in to bat, steadied the ship from 24 for two to post 196 for seven.Young all-rounder Dhruv Prabhakar (51, 35b, 6x4, 1x6) and Thippa Reddy (51, 26b, 5x4, 3x6) added a 29-ball 56 for the fourth wicket.

Manish Pandey gave the essay a good finish with an unbeaten 19-ball 41.

Arbind Rai and Lavish Kaushal took three wickets each for Warriors.

The scores: Gulbarga Mystics 196/7 in 20 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 51, Thippa Reddy 51, Manish Pandey 41 n.o.) lost to Mysore Warriors 197/7 in 19.3 overs (Ritesh Bhatkal 75 n.o.).

Taking charge: Ritesh steered Warriors to their third win. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hubli Tigers 197/6 in 20 overs (Kruthik Krishna 34, Aneeshwar Gautam 31, Abhinav Manohar 35, Shivkumar Rakshith 50 n.o., Shubhang Hegde 2/24) lost to Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters 200/7 in 20 overs (Shubhang Hegde 41, Praveen Dubey 64 n.o., Shikhar Shetty 3/19, Vaibhav Sharma 2/56).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Tamanna's unbeaten ton powers Hammonds CC to big win

Tamanna Sudesh Kumar (110 n.o.) powered Hammonds CC past Young Lions Club by 176 runs in the KSCA under-15 girls' T30 tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: Hammonds CC 235/2 in 23 overs (Tamanna Sudesh Kumar 110 n.o.) bt Young Lions Club 59/9 in 23 overs. Coles CC 101/9 in 30 overs lost to Sapphire CC 104/2 in 13.5 overs (M.S. Jaishnavi 60 n.o.). Bangalore Occasionals 34 in 12.3 overs (B. Namratha 5/12) lost to Minerva CC 35/2 in 5.3 overs.

Bangalore SC 125/8 in 29 overs lost to Swastic Union (1) 126/7 in 19 overs (Aaradhya Mallik 56 n.o.). Malleswaram Gymkhana 40 in 15.5 overs lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 41/2 in 8.2 overs. Mount Joy 40 in 22 overs lost to Vultures CC 43/0 in 4.5 overs. Cambridge CC 117/7 in 30 overs (Tanishka 43) bt RVCE Gymkhana 100 in 20.4 overs (Tanishka 5/4).

LIVE TELECAST

Wimbledon: Star Sports 2, SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.
Formula One: British GP, Sprint Shootout, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 4.30 p.m. ; Qualifying, 8.30 p.m.
England vs India: Second T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
West Indies vs Sri Lanka: Second Test, Day 2, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 10.30 p.m. & 2.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Gukesh rises to joint second

Press Trust of India
ZAGREB

World champion D. Gukesh made good use of white pieces to beat Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri in the final game of the day to rise to joint second after the second day of the Zagreb leg of the Grand Chess Tour here.

Standings (after sixth round, Rapid): 1. Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 10); 2-5. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra), D. Gukesh, Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou), Vincent Keymer (Ger) 7 each; 6-8: R. Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri (Ned); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) 6 each.

After GM title, Ethan dreams of being best in the world

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Ethan Vaz was about six and hooked to cartoons with his elder sibling when he was introduced to chess primarily as a fun indoor activity and to wean them off television. He took a liking to the game and displayed talent which probably made his parents link up with a coach.

"After just eight months of coaching, Ethan represented Goa at the National under-7 championship in 2018 and finished among the prize winners in his very first National tournament.

"That performance gave us confidence that he possessed something special," Edwin said about his 14-year-old son, who became India's 96th Grandmaster a few days ago with a tournament win in Sarajevo.

Rising star: Ethan became India's 96th Grandmaster a few days ago. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Edwin and his wife Linda, software professionals, moved back to Goa in 2011 from Japan where they were working after the tsunami struck and have since turned their attention to furthering their younger son's chess ambitions.

> As Ethan has grown older and gained a deeper understanding of professional chess, his aspirations have evolved
>
> **EDWIN**
> Ethan's father

"As Ethan has grown older and gained a deeper understanding of professional chess, his aspirations have evolved.

Today, besides dreaming of becoming a World champion, he envisages becoming the World No. 1," Edwin told *The Hindu*.

"The gap between a GM and an elite player is enormous, and we fully understand that there is still a very long road ahead," he added.

Travelling abroad for events was tough for the boy due to financial constraints and the family turned to crowdfunding to raise money and Edwin is grateful to those who chipped in.

Ethan's immediate objective is to continue improving by competing regularly in strong tournaments against elite opposition.

Froome. AP

Froome calls time on career

Reuters
LONDON

Four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome has retired from professional cycling, bringing the curtain down on a glittering career spanning over two decades in the sport. Froome also won two Vuelta a Espana and one Giro d'Italia with Team Sky (now Team Ineos).

Circle Of Dreams primed to deliver in main event

RACING

BENGALURU: Circle Of Dreams, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the D.M. Kumaraswamy Memorial Trophy (1,600m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (July 4). False rails (width about 6.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position. The jockey for Flamingo Dream in the second race will be declared later.

1 MAURITIUS PEARL PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-30 p.m.: 1. Shining Dawn (2) Sandesh 56, 2. Fortissima (1) Pavan 54.5, 3. Garzian (6) Jagadeesh 54.5, 4. Mystic Dew (3) Neeraj 54.5, 5. On The Rise (5) Arvind K 54.5 and 6. Yarra Yarra (4) Antony 54.5.

1. SHINING DAWN, 2. GARZIAN

2 SKYLINE PLATE (DIV. III), 1,400m, rated 00 to 25, 3-00: 1. Rightly Noble (7) Suhas K 60, 2. Infinite Spirit (3) Vishal 59, 3. Sling Shot (2) Faizan Khan 59, 4. Whitney (5) G. Vivek 58.5, 5. Flamingo Dream (6) (–) 58, 6. Double Scotch (4) Antony 55.5, 7. Lorven's Glory (1) Kiran Rai 54 and 8. Wakizashi (8) Vishal Bunde 53.5.

1. WHITNEY, 2. DOUBLE SCOTCH, 3. RIGHTLY NOBLE

3 VETERINARIAN'S CUP (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3-30: 1. Magestic Persona (4) S. Sachin 60, 2. Makoto (11) Kiran Rai 56, 3. Adelanto (1) Abhishek Mhatre 55.5, 4. Rosaline (12) Antony 55.5, 5. Aphelion (9) Sandesh 54.5, 6. Dr Ash (5) Rafique S.K 54.5, 7. Vibrant Queen (7) R. Pradeep 54.5, 8. Aatherv (10) Akshay K 53, 9. The Golden Dream (3) Siddaraju 52.5, 10. Xaily (6) Shivam 51.5, 11. Khazana (2) Neeraj 50 and 12. Supernal (8) P.P. Dhebe 50.

1. AATHERV, 2. MAGESTIC PERSONA, 3. APHELION

4 D.M. KUMARASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-00: 1. Circle Of Dreams (4) Akshay K 60, 2. D Fronx (7) Sai Kiran 60, 3. Gordon (1) Darshan 57.5, 4. Hazel (6) Antony 57.5, 5. Finley (5) Md. Aliyar 56, 6. Manwar (3) G. Vivek 55.5, 7. Multi Success (8) Vishal Bunde 55 and 8. Scarlette Lady (2) Girish R 54.5.

1. CIRCLE OF DREAMS, 2. MANWAR, 3. HAZEL

5 SKYLINE PLATE (DIV. II), 1,400m, rated 00 to 25, 4-30: 1. Anzac Parade (6) S. Sachin 60, 2. Indian Mission (–) (–) 60, 3. White Secret (5) Rafique S.K 60, 4. Diesel (1) Sandesh 59.5, 5. Glaze (8) Kiran Rai 59.5, 6. LG's Script (7) Vishal 59.5, 7. Best Of Us (2) Md. Talib 59, 8. Fiery Love (3) P.P. Dhebe 59 and 9. Queen Maxima (–) (–) 59.

1. LG'S SCRIPT, 2. ANZAC PARADE, 3. DIESEL

6 SKYLINE PLATE (DIV. I), 1,400m, rated 00 to 25, 5-00: 1. Sherlock (6) Vishal Bunde 62.5, 2. Vorfreude (1) Ritesh Gochhi 62.5, 3. Divo (8) Jagadeesh 62, 4. Peridot (3) Faizan Khan 62, 5. Cr Seven (2) Kiran Rai 61, 6. Joyful Spirit (9) Shivam 61, 7. LG's Star (4) Girish R 61, 8. Treasure Queen (5) Rafique S.K 61 and 9. Turkoman (7) Arul 61.

1. DIVO, 2. SHERLOCK, 3. VORFREUDE

Day's best: **CIRCLE OF DREAMS**
Double: **WHITNEY – AATHERV**
Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 and 6; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6.

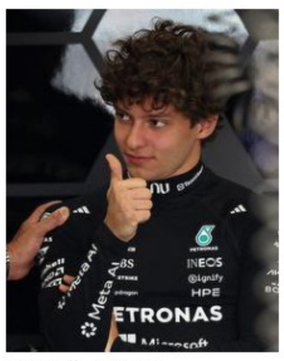
Antonelli is something else, reckons Hill

FORMULA ONE

S. Dipak Ragav

Former Formula One World champion Damon Hill praised Mercedes driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli as a special talent and backed him for the F1 drivers' title this year.

"I think the favourite is Kimi because I think that he's got the equipment. Mercedes has been the most consistent, and he's got an advantage (40 points), and I think that he's still on a learning curve. So George (Russell) has got a mountain to climb, I think, to rein him in. I'm not saying he can't do it, but I think from what I've seen this guy is something else. So we'll see," said Hill ahead of this weekend's British Grand Prix.



Antonelli. REUTERS

Antonelli's teammate Russell heads into his home race after winning the previous round in Austria last weekend, only his second of the year. Hill felt it should give the local hero a much-needed boost at a time when the crowd would have heightened expectations.

"George having got a win and closed the gap to Kimi, that's going to be a positive for him and a massive relief because it was, as he said at one point, he didn't know what to say. He was at a loss for words given the amount of bad luck he had, but he finally got a good victory; a genuine win, he got pole position and so forth. I think that's going to restore some of his confidence," the 1996 F1 champion added.

When asked if Russell was a bit unsettled by Antonelli hogging all the attention when he won five races on the bounce, Hill remarked that it was something a driver has to deal with, even if he had been at a place for longer.

"When a driver is in a team, they can't consider that they are the primary concern of that team. The problem with being a racing driver in our sport is that you're not really part of the team. For the time you're there, you're part of the team, but you still have to prove yourself against the other guy. So you're in a constant battle to establish your position."

Hamilton's day out

Lewis Hamilton took the sprint pole at his home race, edging Antonelli. Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc completed the top four. It was a huge boost for Hamilton's hopes of a record 10th win at Silverstone.

(*Watch the British GP live on FanCode*)